

East

THE MAGAZINE OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY.

FALL 2016

Road maps to health

Making it count

Giving voice

We believed

Aiming high

Chancellor Cecil Staton
has big plans for ECU



Ahoy, East Carolina!

It is difficult to believe I arrived on the campus of East Carolina University as your new chancellor just a few weeks ago. Things were quiet then. It's amazing, however, the difference a new semester brings with a record 29,000 students.

Now the campus is a beehive of activity and, of course, we all have our Saturdays planned with tailgating and exhilarating Pirate football!

At orientation sessions, I told new Pirates this is my freshman year, too. We are in this together, and we're going to have a great year. I am proud to be part of the amazing Pirate Nation that my wife, Catherine, and I have been so warmly welcomed into. The Pirate pride I see on and off the campus of East Carolina is wonderful. This is an extraordinary university with a wonderful future, poised for greatness.

These are challenging yet dynamic times for public higher education. I believe ECU is in a unique position to lead and thrive. We have a superlative faculty, a broad and relevant range of colleges and schools, a student-centered staff, great athletic traditions, terrifically engaged and capable students, and wonderful community and alumni support.

ECU must always put students first even as we seek next-generation solutions and innovation across our university. At ECU, we prepare the teachers for our schools and the nurses, dentists and physicians for our hospitals and communities. We educate the business leaders who advance our economy and the engineers who will solve complex problems. We nurture the artists and performers who inspire us. Each day, we prepare educated and engaged citizens who will change our community, North Carolina and the world.

We embrace our mission to be a comprehensive public research university while aspiring to be an innovative world-class institution. The measure of our success is the dedication of our faculty and staff as well as the accomplishments of our students and their impact upon the world.

The greatest asset we possess is the people who are East Carolina University—yesterday, today and tomorrow. Our aspirations are momentous as we seek to fulfill the mission of ECU—*Servire*, “to serve.” I am committed to raising the profile of this great university and telling the story of the wonderful way we foster student success, public service and regional transformation. We are America’s next great university!

Go Pirates!

Cecil P. Staton

Cecil P. Staton
Chancellor

FALL 2016
VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1
East is produced by East Carolina University
in partnership with the
East Carolina Alumni Association.

INTERIM EDITOR
Mary Schulken '79
MANAGING EDITOR
Doug Boyd '99
ART DIRECTOR/DESIGNER
Brent Burch
PHOTOGRAPHER
Cliff Hollis
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Crystal Baity, Doug Boyd, Harley Dartt, Jackie Drake,
Amy Adams Ellis, Kathryn Kennedy, Rich Klindworth,
Sophronia Knott, Jules Norwood,
Kelly Setzer, Jamie Smith
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jay Clark, Forrest Croce, Jenny Crofton,
Lois Greenfield, Doug Smith '00 '07, Heather Stumpf
COPY EDITORS
Jimmy Rostar '94, Spaine Stephens
ECU REPORT EDITOR
Jeannine Manning Hutson
ALUMNI NEWS EDITOR
Jackie Drake
CLASS NOTES EDITOR
Joanne Kollar
ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION,
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MARKETING
Mary Schulken '79

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responsible stewardship of the public trust and
academic freedom, ECU values the contributions of
a diverse community, supports shared governance
and guarantees equality of opportunity.

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Printed by RR Donnelley
C.S. 16-2007 30,500 copies of this public document
were printed at a cost of \$14,820 or \$.49 each.



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East uses a set of icons to identify stories, photos and features with specific content. They are student success, regional transformation, public service, alumni and call to action. The first three are the commitments in ECU's strategic plan, the fourth indicates information with an alumni focus, and the final icon could have various meanings, from giving opportunities to a call to stay connected or take action on behalf of your university. We hope these images add to *East's* coverage of ECU and the people and stories related to the university.



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East, the magazine of
East Carolina University, is
published three times a year.
It is mailed to members of
the East Carolina Alumni
Association and the Pirate
Club as well as to those
who support ECU through
donations to the university.

If you would like to receive
East by mail, please make
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easteditor@ecu.edu or
Howard House
Mail Stop 107
East Carolina University
Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353

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Chancellor Staton speaks with Board of Trustees Chairman Steve Jones.

Trustees welcome Staton, elect officers

The East Carolina University Board of Trustees gathered for the first meeting of the fiscal year July 15 and welcomed Cecil Staton, who became ECU's 11th chancellor July 1.

In the coming months, Staton said he will be working to raise the profile of ECU. "The contributions and wonderful work that takes place at ECU is not as widely known as it should be, and this university doesn't get the recognition it deserves. It will take time, but we can change that," said Staton.

He also said the strength of ECU is in the people who make up the university. "We have the human resources to fulfill the aspirations of becoming America's next great university," he said.

The board unanimously re-elected officers for another term. Steve Jones of Raleigh was re-elected chair of the board. Kieran Shanahan of Raleigh was elected vice chair, and Bob Plybon of Greensboro will serve as secretary.

Also, sworn in as a new member of the board was Ryan Beeson, the ECU Student Government Association president. A native of Sophia, Beeson is a graduate student at ECU, where he also received his undergraduate degrees in political science and economics. He was elected SGA president in the spring and will serve as ex-officio member of the board.

In other business:

- Chris Dyba, vice chancellor for advancement, announced a record \$56 million was donated to the university in 2015-2016.
- The board voted to discontinue the ECU Institute of Outdoor Theatre and transfer its assets to the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Greensboro.
- The board approved Lord Aeck Sargent of Chapel Hill as the designer of the Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building.
- The board approved T.A. Loving Co. of Goldsboro and Frank L. Blum Construction Co. of Winston-Salem as the construction managers-at-risk for the Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium expansion project.
- The following were appointed to the ECU Board of Visitors for the Class of 2020: Angela Allen of Vienna, Virginia; Ernest Logemann of Winston-Salem; John Cooper of Raleigh; Donna Phillips of Winterville; Brownie Futrell of Washington; Curt Vanderhorst of Raleigh; Kathy Smith Adams of Raleigh; Patrick Sebastian of Raleigh; Deidra Blanks of Wilmington; Henry Taylor of Raleigh; Preston Mitchell of Reidsville; Kevin Taylor of Salisbury; Wanda Montano of Charlotte; Michael Waldrum of Greenville; and Justin Mullarkey of Greenville.
- The board approved the following officers for the Board of Visitors: Mark Garner as chairman, Sabrina Bengel as vice chair and Linda Thomas as secretary.

—Jamie Smith

ECU is finalist for national community engagement award

ECU is representing the southeast among the four universities in the running for this year's C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Scholarship Award, presented by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

The regional award recognizes the Brody School of Medicine's MATCH Wellness program, an interdisciplinary, community-university partnership created to combat childhood obesity.

The other regional winners are Pennsylvania State University, Portland State University and Purdue University. The winner will be announced at the APLU annual meeting Nov. 13-15 in Austin, Texas.

It's the second time ECU has competed for the national honor. East Carolina won the Magrath Award in 2012 for its work with the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center in Greenville.

Since 2007, the MATCH Wellness partnership has grown from one middle school teacher and one ECU faculty member to include faculty and students from the ECU Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment Center

and public school staff from 15 communities at 35 public schools across three states.

Nearly 13,000 students have participated in the MATCH curriculum, preventing an estimated 1,300 cases of adult obesity.

In North Carolina, experts have said, a 3 percent shift in adults from overweight to healthy weight would yield \$3 billion in annual savings.

"The university and the community bring different types of expertise that are critical to the success of projects like MATCH Wellness that are implemented in non-campus settings," said Dr. Suzanne Lazorick, an ECU pediatrician and obesity researcher. "Our goal is to reach as many regions and children as possible, and we hope being named a finalist will help to promote the value and potential benefit of MATCH."

The national award is named for C. Peter Magrath, APLU president from 1992 to 2005. It includes a sculpture and \$20,000 prize. The three regional winners not chosen for the Magrath Award will each receive \$5,000.

—Staff reports



Seventh-grader Chase Winslow stretches during a MATCH Wellness activity.



ECU Air Force Cadet Josh Cole practices in the flight simulator in Wright Annex.

ROTC offers cadets unique training

A new training course and flight simulator used by U.S. Army and Air Force cadets at ECU are helping develop the nation's future military leaders.

Unique among schools in the University of North Carolina system and across the country, ECU offers a dedicated outdoor training area at the West Research Campus that features maneuver and marksmanship space, a rappel tower and a problem-solving obstacle course. A state-of-the-art flight simulator called the Combat Pilot Pro 4 in Wright Annex can provide a computer model of public airports or military landing fields anywhere in the world.

Students began using the obstacle course last fall, while the flight simulator arrived in April.

The simulator offers a realistic representation of the cockpit of an aircraft, complete with pilot's seat, throttle and control panel. It provides 180-degree views with computer screens in front and on either side of the pilot. It can be configured to show any public airport or military airfield in the world as well as hundreds of types of aircraft and any weather condition.

Not all Air Force cadets have their private pilot's license, so the simulator offers valuable training for those who will eventually get certification. Students who may be interested in flying can try it for free instead of paying up to \$120 an hour for simulator use offered by private companies, said Capt. Corey Silknitter, assistant professor of aerospace studies at ECU.

It also lets cadets gain much-needed practice for the Air Force Test of Basic Aviation Skills, which is a required test for anyone interested in flying for the service, Silknitter said. "I am not aware of any AFROTC detachment in the Southeast region that has a simulator, let alone one that provides the realism ours does," Silknitter said.

The Army ROTC training course at the West Research Campus is a former Voice of America site that covers almost 600 acres northwest of Greenville.

"I'm not aware of any other school in the UNC system that has access to anything similar," said Capt. Kevin D. Prevost, assistant professor of military science and executive officer with

the ECU Army ROTC.

"That kind of area for maneuver training is accomplished in most ROTC programs by travelling to actual Army posts or other Army training sites. Moreover, that ECU has funded the construction of a rappel tower and leader reaction/obstacle course only reinforces ECU's commitment to being recognized as the most military-friendly institution of higher learning in North Carolina."

The leader reaction course consists of seven obstacles. Three of the stations test strength, coordination and agility while four require physical fitness along with critical thinking, decision-making and teamwork skills. For instance, soldiers work as a team to transport critical equipment from one side of a destroyed bridge to the other without falling in a simulated river, using only two boards and three leftover support beams.

"The leader obstacle course is important to the ROTC program because it allows us to develop critical thinking and teamwork skills in accomplishing goals," said Chris Rudkowski, an ECU Army ROTC and N.C. National Guard cadet and business management

major from Apex. "The course provides cadets who have a fear of heights or are unsure if they can accomplish a physically demanding challenge the ability to overcome those obstacles. When we revisit the course, those developed skills become assets in leading other cadets through the same challenges."

ECU is the only Army ROTC program in the UNC system that has an engagement skills trainer for marksmanship training. The next closest one is at James Madison University in Virginia, and most are at military colleges or academies, said Lt. Col. Joseph Pierce, professor of military science and the commander of ECU's Army ROTC program.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the national ROTC, which has a total of 275 programs at colleges and universities in the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam with an enrollment of more than 30,000.

College ROTC programs produce more than 70 percent of the second lieutenants who join the active Army, the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve.

—Crystal Baity and Jackie Drake

Rip current research aims to help swimmers

For years, beachgoers have learned to “break the grip of the rip” by swimming parallel to shore to escape currents pulling them out to sea.

Now a partnership of researchers, scientists and lifeguards wants to teach people to avoid rip currents in the first place.

The partnership began when Greg Dusek, senior scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, was a UNC-Chapel Hill graduate student doing his dissertation research on rip currents at the UNC Coastal Studies Institute.

ECU is the administrative campus for CSI, which was founded in 2003 and also includes member institutions Elizabeth City State University, North Carolina State University, UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Wilmington.

The Army Corps of Engineers re-search facility in Duck also helped with the research, as did lifeguard agencies on the Outer Banks.

“We wanted to better predict rip currents, and to do that we needed some direct observation,” said Dusek. “The lifeguards are out there every day, and they have collected a lot of data for us—records of their rescues over eight or nine summers.”

The model Dusek is developing will be used to produce beach forecasts, which are now in an experimental stage, and to issue warnings when there is a high likelihood of dangerous rip currents.

Kill Devil Hills Ocean Rescue Supervisor David Elder’s department is responsible for guarding five miles of beach along North Carolina’s Outer Banks, and he said rip currents are the single major factor in most rescues.

In trying to educate the public about rip currents, he said, “we started to realize that it isn’t as easy to fix as ‘do this, and that will happen.’ If you were to take any one action—float in place, or swim left or swim straight in—no one of those is going to be effective every time. And you can’t count on everyone in the water being a strong swimmer.”

The best way to protect people from rip currents, he said, is with information. That can take many forms, from learning to recognize rip currents to speaking with a lifeguard about water conditions. The beach forecasts are intended to add to that knowledge base.

In addition to the rip current model, the partnership has put

together an outreach campaign to expand the public knowledge of rip currents, including a series of educational videos with footage produced by CSI.

“We’ve helped produce some imagery and content to rebrand the message that’s being used for rip current safety nationwide,” said John McCord, CSI’s director of public engagement. “We’re interested in having people be able to identify currents before they’re in the water to avoid getting into it. Many times the cues are very subtle.”

CSI shot video footage of rip currents from a variety of perspectives—from the beach, from the dunes and from a drone—with and without a dye that helps show the current.

“You can see the track out and the plume at the end, especially in the footage from the drone,” McCord said. “We want to show people what they look like during conditions that can be the most dangerous.”

Since fewer people are in the water during rough, stormy weather, it’s actually calmer conditions that can be more dangerous. Rip currents are most common at low tide, with a well-formed sandbar near the beach.

Wherever there are gaps in the bar, rip currents can form.

Another thing to look for is places where the waves aren’t breaking—flat spots in the line of breaking waves. This is easier to see from an elevated position, so check from the dunes or the boardwalk before going down to the beach. Look for flags marking danger areas.

Other suggestions include self-awareness—recognizing the level of your own swimming ability—and tailoring water activities to the weakest swimmer in the group. If someone is in trouble, get a flotation aid to them and alert a lifeguard, but avoid going in after them. Would-be rescuers often get in trouble, as well.

“They are pulling people out of the water day after day from these rip current events,” McCord said. “Even while we were shooting, they had to pull someone out, so the shot that’s in the PSA is a real rescue. They have a daily challenge in trying to educate the public.”

The Rip Current Survival Guide produced by NOAA’s Ocean Today program is available at oceantoday.noaa.gov/ripcurrentfeature.

—Jules Norwood



Students work on a canoe during class as instructor Gerald Weckesser, second from left, offers feedback.

Students navigate boat-building class

It was a shorter paddle than expected but still a success for ECU boatbuilding student Grace Joyner and her classmates.

After five weeks of painstaking work, Joyner’s final exam was to launch her skin-on-frame canoe June 20 on the Tar River. Although the hull took on water, School of Art and Design instructor Gerald Weckesser said Joyner and her eight classmates passed.

“It’s a rousing success; this is a victory,” Weckesser said. “We’ll take them back, dry them out, re-coat them and do it again. I’m pretty confident with a little tuneup, we’ll have some completely floating vessels.”

“I thought it was a lot of fun,” said student Abby Barringer, a senior ceramics and photography major from Harrisburg. “I had to make the voyage. After five weeks of work, you have to do it.”

Before the launch, students added some final pieces—stress bands, floor boards and rub rails—then carried their boats from the Jenkins Fine Arts Building to the Town Common access. The boats weigh about 15 pounds, so they’re easily transportable, Weckesser said.

Joyner, an art education major with a concentration in ceramics, had walked past ECU’s wood shop almost daily but never been inside. When she heard about the boatbuilding class, the first ever offered at ECU, she decided to sign up.

“How many people can say they made their own boat and have it to use every day?” Joyner said. Her home in Rocky Mount is about a mile from the Tar River, and she has friends with houses on the river and the Pamlico Sound. “I go fishing,” she said. “I’m always borrowing someone else’s boat.”

Throughout the course, Joyner became comfortable using tools such as a table saw, band saw, jointer and different sanders needed to make the 12-foot lightweight canoe. She learned to fabricate parts, steam and bend wood, fasten stringers to ribs, and stretch, fit and shrink the boat’s fabric or skin.

Working with wood is very different than ceramics, she said. “(Clay is) malleable. You can make it do what you want it to do pretty quick, and wood’s not that way,” she said. “In here,

measurements are specific. Clay is totally different.”

On the first day, students traveled to Beaufort to pick out the juniper, a type of cedar that’s lightweight and easier to bend than other woods.

“I’ve learned about joints and which wood is stronger, the different types of woods. In terms of our boat, it’s a mixture of both but mostly soft wood,” said Joyner.

She partnered with student Tessa Gibson because many tasks required more than one person to accomplish. “We’ve learned from a couple of mistakes,” Joyner said. “Everyone is helping each other.”

Many of the students were new to woodworking, such as Barringer. “Photography is very 2-D, and I’m trying to make 3-D (with the canoe),” she said. “I like the hands-on, meticulous work. It’s very relatable.”

A goal for the class was to not only create a piece of art, but a functional vessel, Weckesser said.

“Ultimately what I’d like my students to come away with from this course is a historical understanding of the craft and

the process of thinking through making something, where they’re learning not just by listening or by watching but by doing,” Weckesser said. “We’re using traditions that are 4,000 years old.”

The boatbuilding process follows an ancient technique used by the Northern people of the Aleutian Islands.

“Some of the skills I will take from here won’t just be for building boats; it will be applicable for other mediums,” said Lisa Beth Robinson, assistant professor of art, one of two faculty members who took the class along with Jim Tisnado, associate professor of ceramics. “People forget utilitarian can be very beautiful,” she said.

Weckesser and fellow instructor Judd Snapp were inspired to offer the woodworking elective after attending the DASH (Design, Art, Science, Humanities) Conference at the UNC Coastal Studies Institute in Manteo last year. Weckesser has built light portage canoes, and Snapp has experience building paddleboards, surfboards and boats.

—Crystal Baity



The UNC Coastal Studies Institute has helped produce imagery for a new public outreach program by using fluorescein dye to highlight rip currents.

Courtesy UNC Coastal Studies Institute

Students collaborate on falls clinic

A team of ECU graduate students from three College of Allied Health Sciences disciplines spent a Friday in June conducting a fall prevention clinic for seniors—and also learning how their careers will intersect after graduation. Eighty students from physical

therapy, physician assistant studies and occupational therapy converged on a church in the Black Jack community in rural Pitt County in June, conducting assessments as a health care team for about 20 local seniors. The outreach event began four



P.T. student Mary O’Doherty guides Hazel Edwards through fall risk assessment.



years ago because P.A. studies faculty member Kim Stokes “wanted students to work and talk with elderly people outside of a nursing home setting—ambulatory folks.”

After an occupational therapy student working with Stokes mentioned what a good exercise it would be for her peers, Stokes contacted colleagues from that department and physical therapy.

This was the first year all three groups were present in Black Jack.

“They’re learning how to work on an interdisciplinary team,” said Jennifer Radloff, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. “We selected tools...where they could have ‘ah-ha’ moments about skills that cross over and also things that are distinct to their fields.”

With each senior patient, the P.A. students gathered basic vitals and history, asking about past falls or significant medical incidents. Physical therapy students then put them through a series of exercises testing balance and gait. Occupational therapists administered vision tests and other mental tasks.

Beyond the important clinical interaction, the students said they benefited from spending time with one another.

“We all had questions about each other’s professions,” said Bansari Patel, a P.A. student.

“I don’t think I realized how much these two (physical and occupational therapy) worked together,” added P.A. student Danielle Koch.

In small groups they discussed similarities and differences in their coursework, what health care settings might hire them in the future and how they would approach patient care as a team.

“I measure success by whether the students learned something they didn’t know before,” Stokes reflected after the event. “Either about how to address the geriatric population or another professional.

“From the patients, it’s hearing them say things like, ‘these students were professionals. I want them to take care of me as I continue to age.’”

—Kathryn Kennedy



ECU Police earn dual accreditation

The ECU Police Department has been certified by the Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

ECU and North Carolina State University have the only law enforcement agencies in the UNC system accredited by both organizations.

ECU received IACLEA accreditation for the first time this year. The department has been reaccredited by CALEA every three years since 2007.

ECU was one of 14 agencies recognized with CALEA’s Accreditation with Excellence. During the process, two out-of-state assessors visited Greenville for an on-site review and interviewed police personnel, students, faculty and staff.

The IACLEA accreditation recognizes the challenges of law enforcement agencies on college and university campuses. Topics such as Clery Act compliance, emergency notifications and Title IX investigations are included in 18 additional standards required by college police departments. More than 1,000 colleges and universities in 10 countries hold membership with IACLEA.

The ECU Police Department is a full-service agency that employs 58 full-time sworn police officers and 16 non-sworn staff members.

—Jamie Smith

Students begin project to address global challenges

From fighting hunger to advocating for youth from rural areas, ECU students are working to improve the lives of others through a project called That Big Idea Challenge.

Erik Kneubuehl, associate vice chancellor for student involvement and leadership, brought the concept, modeled after the Clinton Global Initiative, to ECU last year.

Student leaders Zach Evans and Mona Amin, who attended the Clinton Global Initiative University conference in 2015, along with ECU staff member Adeea Rogers, helped recruit ECU students across disciplines to participate last fall and provided support for the project.

More than 30 students collaborated in 15 project groups on ideas focused around education, the environment and climate change, alleviating poverty, peace and human rights, or public health.

“Even if the ideas don’t take off, these students are inspired and learn to work beyond the boundaries of their major and campus,” Kneubuehl said. “It’s service in its utmost sense.”

By the end of the semester, a dozen ECU teams submitted applications to attend the CGIU conference, held April 1-3 at the University of California, Berkeley.

Rising senior Roderick Hall and sophomore Bina Amin, Mona’s sister, were accepted and attended the conference with more than 300 student groups, 1,000 people and many networking opportunities. The

Office of Student Involvement and Leadership supported their trips.

“There were people from all over the world at the conference,” Hall said.

Hall, who is majoring in political science and philosophy, grew up in an unincorporated town of about 500—Riegelwood—in southeastern North Carolina. He wants to help other students from rural, small towns who face challenges in attending college.

He initially applied to CGI to grow and provide resources for an organization he was involved in called Free Man Beyond Me Foundation. But once at the conference, Hall started to craft his own idea.

“I am currently in the process of trying to develop an app that will target students in rural areas, specifically those of color, to help them prepare for college and then offer guidance to them throughout their collegiate career,” Hall said. “First-generation rural students don’t have people to connect with. Our families can’t prepare us.”

Hall has developed a logo and will begin pitching the idea to potential supporters. After graduation, he wants to attend law school with the goal of becoming a civil/human rights lawyer and social entrepreneur.

Bina Amin and a friend, Garima Tomar, a student at UNC-Chapel Hill, developed the concept for Regift when they were seniors at the N.C. School of Science and Math. The effort would recycle unspent or partially used gift cards to reduce food

insecurity and give back to the community, Amin said.

“Twenty-six percent, or 1 in 4, children in North Carolina go hungry,” she said.

They hope to partner with large companies that could donate the “extra” money from unspent gift cards to combat hunger nationally and internationally, Amin said.

The idea received a lot of interest at the conference. “Our next step is look for connections with individuals that oversee the finance departments of large companies,” Amin said. “They would be able to help us envision the future of Regift in partnership with other companies.”

After graduation, Amin, a biology Honors College student, plans to attend medical school to become a geriatrician. She also will continue working on Regift as the idea progresses.

This fall, Hall and Amin will help mentor other students interested in applying for the 2017 CGIU to continue That Big Idea Challenge at ECU. They hope to grow interest through social media and expand by pairing students with faculty members, Kneubuehl said.

“Social entrepreneurship is a concept and movement that is here to stay,” Rogers said.

“And with one of ECU’s strategic directions being ‘economic prosperity in the East,’ initiatives like CGIU allow students to begin to prepare for life after graduation with a sense of direction.”

—Crystal Baity



Robert F. Orlikoff has been named dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences. He took over Aug. 1, succeeding Greg Hassler, who served

in an interim role for two years. Orlikoff has a master’s degree in speech pathology and a doctorate in speech and voice physiology from Columbia University. He previously worked at West Virginia University as the associate dean of academic affairs in the College of Education and Human Services.



Linda Richardson, a pediatric nurse specialist, was selected by her peers as this year’s top nurse at ECU Physicians, the group medical

practice of the Brody School of Medicine at ECU. Richardson works in the Pediatric Cardiology Clinic at the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU. She has eight years of nursing experience and a reputation as a patient advocate and skilled communicator.



Joseph Paul, who graduated from ECU in May with a bachelor’s degree in biology, is attending the University of California, Berkeley, to study cell biology

thanks to a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Paul was an EC Scholar at ECU and published articles in *Science* magazine during his junior year and *Nature Neuroscience* as a senior.



Mona Amin, an Honors College student from Charlotte, was one of 19 students from across the country selected for the Women’s Business

Enterprise National Council Student Entrepreneurship Program held June 19-24 in Orlando. Amin is part of a team developing an app called FreshSpire, a mobile application and text system that notifies consumers, including low-income shoppers, about discounts on near-expiring foods at local grocery stores, allowing them to take advantage of healthy foods at lower prices. A biology major set to graduate in 2017, Amin plans to attend the Brody School of Medicine as an Early Assurance Scholar.



Roderick Hall and Bina Amin



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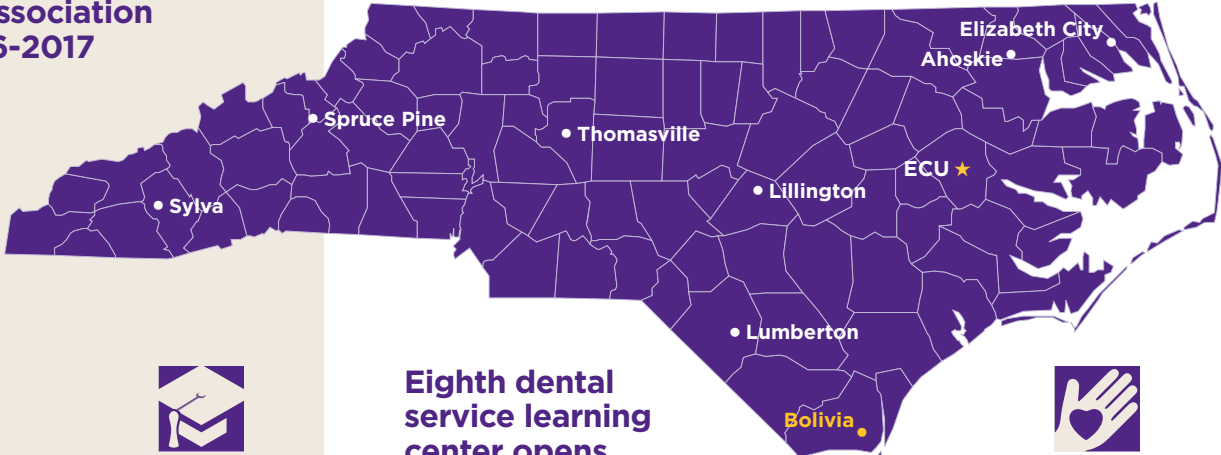
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Tyna Sloate '90, New York
Daniel Spuller '06 '07, Holly Springs
Lynnette Taylor '97, Winterville
Linda Thomas '81, Charlotte
Jason Tomasula '00 '03 '10, Wake Forest

The East Carolina Alumni Association board of directors helps the association advance its mission to inform, involve and serve more than 165,000 living Pirate alumni around the world. Applications and nominations for the 2017-2018 board term are being accepted through Dec. 15. New terms start July 1 of each year and last for three years. Board members serve on a volunteer basis and are expected to attend two meetings a year and one Web-based meeting each winter. More information is at PirateAlumni.com/BoardApplicationProcess.



Eighth dental
service learning
center opens

ECU opened its eighth—and possibly final—dental center earlier this year in Bolivia in southeastern North Carolina.

The School of Dental Medicine's community service learning centers are facilities that combine clinical education and patient care. Led by faculty members, fourth-year dental students spend clinical rotations, and general dentistry residents also hone their skills at the centers.

"A few years ago this seemed like a dream and daunting task," Dr. Greg Chadwick, dean of the dental school, said at the April ribbon-cutting. "But here we are today."

Other centers are in Ahsokie, Elizabeth City, Thomasville, Lillington, Lumberton, Spruce Pine and Sylva. The Bolivia center began accepting patients in February.

"Our faculty, students and residents have seen over 32,000 patients from 98 of North Carolina's 100 counties," Chadwick said. "And we're just beginning." David Stanley, executive director of Brunswick County Health and Human Services, is already anticipating the difference ECU dental medicine can make in his community. During remarks at the ribbon-cutting, he noted a recent community health assessment designated Brunswick County as "having a health provider shortage."

"This is an awful big county, and transportation is difficult for a lot of folks," Stanley said. "That's why this (dental center) is such a powerful, powerful resource we have available, and we're so fortunate to have it in our region."

"We're all going to have close ties and really be woven in with this center as they provide excellent

care and services," he added.

Fourth-year dental student Sarah Kinsley of Greenville will be among those caring for patients at the center. She graduated in May—part of ECU's second class of dentists—and began a one-year dental residency program at the Brunswick County clinic.

"ECU's mission and the community service learning centers are what brought me (to the school)," Kinsley said. "It's all regulated (across the centers), so the care is consistent. And you get to live in all different areas of the state."

Kinsley completed rotations through Thomasville, Lillington and Sylva during the past year. That travel solidified her commitment to practicing in the East, she said, and she looks forward to meeting people and getting to know the Brunswick County community over the coming year.

"We take our duty seriously to be a huge driver of the (health care) workforce in this state," said Phyllis Horns, vice chancellor for health sciences at ECU.

ECU's community service learning centers are open to all members of the community, and offer comprehensive general dental services for adults, children and special needs patients in a safe, caring and professional setting. Dental insurance, including Medicaid, is accepted.

The 7,700-square-foot clinics have 16 operators, advanced equipment, a wheelchair lift, 3D imaging and an endodontic microscope.

The center is at 100 Brunswick Medical Center Parkway NE in Bolivia. Appointments are available by calling 910-253-9000.

—Kathryn Kennedy

From right, Brian Edgerton,
Eric Miller and Stephen Latham



Teeing off for a cause

For Brian Edgerton and his teammates, golf is not just a way to relax, but a way to get involved with ECU.

Edgerton and fellow Pirate Stephen Latham '13 are two members of the "Old Pros," the team that won the 2015 ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic golf tournament. Hosted by the East Carolina Alumni Association at Ironwood Golf and Country Club

each fall, this event raises funds for the Alumni Scholarship program at ECU and gives alumni an opportunity to network and bond.

"Last year was my fifth time playing in the alumni golf tournament, and it has been a great time each year," said Edgerton, who recently returned to school and is scheduled to complete his degree at ECU in 2019. "I love to play golf and have

met some truly great people that have become close friends because of the game, so I play as much as I can."

Latham got involved with the alumni golf tournament when he met Edgerton at Ironwood in 2014. Their team has included various members over the years, including two former Lady Pirate golfers, since Edgerton started it in 2011.

"I love to play golf, and it's a wonderful way to network with a variety of people," Latham said. "It's a great way to get away from the hustle and bustle of life and just enjoy the fellowship and environment of the golf course."

In addition to connecting alumni, the ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic also provides a direct link for alumni to help students. The 2015 event raised \$25,000 for the Alumni Scholarship program. Since its establishment in 2005, the program has awarded 252 scholarships totaling nearly \$350,000.

"It is very important for those of us that can help to be as involved as possible with helping others follow their academic dreams," said Edgerton, who works in information services at Vidant Health. He also volunteers as a strength coach for ECU Coed

Cheer and as a volunteer coach with the Barton College golf team.

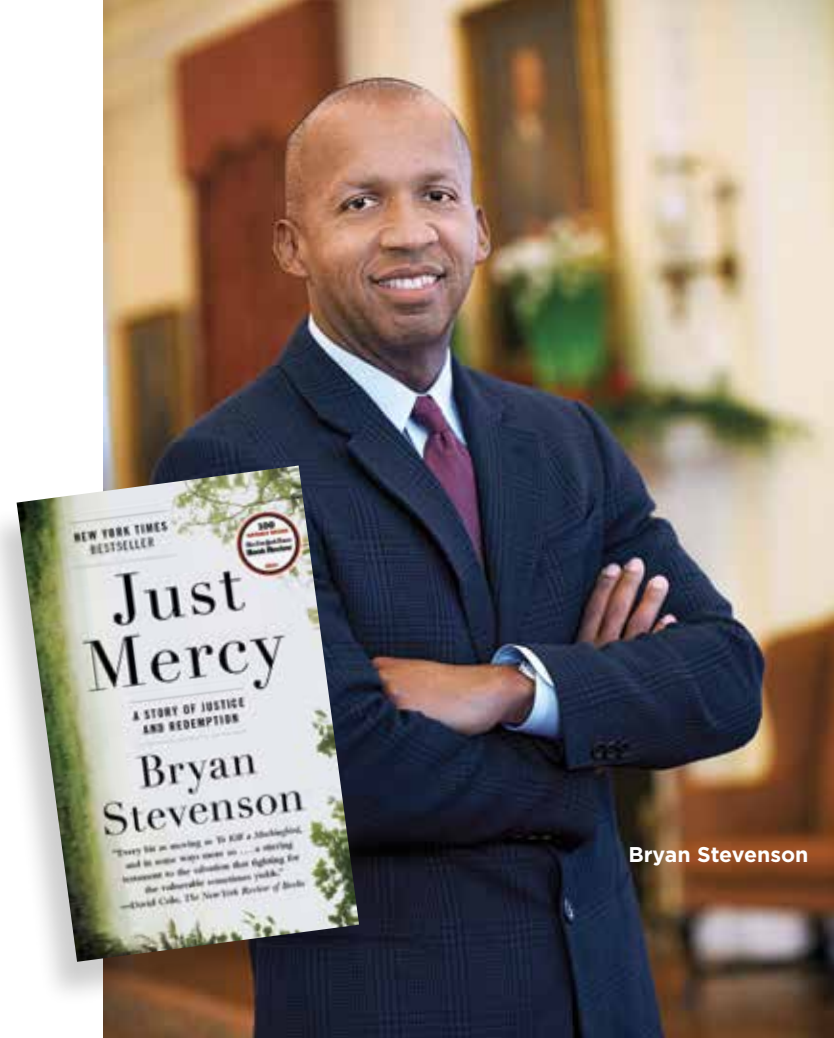
"I feel like it is very important for alumni to support ECU in any kind of way possible. I'm all about giving back and supporting my alma mater," said Latham, who earned his degree in public health studies in 2013. He is a senior account manager for American Red Cross Blood Services.

As winners of the 2015 tournament, Edgerton, Latham and their teammates Eric Miller and David Watkins represented ECU in the Acura College Alumni Team Championship at Pinehurst last fall. They placed sixth among teams from across the nation, but they're hoping to do better next time. They're looking forward to playing again in the 2016 ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic on Sept. 9.

This event is also open to any member of the community who wants to support ECU.

"The golf course is a great equalizer as you can play with the president of a company and someone in an entry-level position all in the same group, and everyone is equal out there," Edgerton said.

—Jackie Drake



Bryan Stevenson

Race topic of this summer’s ‘Pirate read’

Freshmen at ECU explored complex themes of racial injustice before stepping foot in a classroom with this year’s Pirate Read selection.

Bryan Stevenson’s memoir *Just Mercy* was chosen as required

reading before classes began Aug. 22.

The themes of the book relate to societal issues such as criminal justice, the impact of famous literature such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, social justice,

police misconduct and children in the prison system, said Mary Beth Corbin, executive director of the ECU Office of Student Transitions.

“We hope that incoming students as well as faculty will read the book and be able to have campus conversations about these themes,” she said.

The narrative focuses on the case of Walter McMillian, a black man who was convicted of murdering a young white woman in 1986. The murder took place in Monroeville, Alabama, which is the hometown of *To Kill a Mockingbird* author Harper Lee. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, McMillian was sentenced to death.

Although McMillian was ultimately pardoned from death row in 1993, Stevenson’s book highlights the underlying issues of systemic racial injustice in the South and features several cases involving wrongful charges.

The New York Times wrote that even though some of the cases in *Just Mercy* occurred more than 30 years ago, Stevenson engages the reader in a way that allows for insight, reflection and possibly a call to action.

The introduction says “this book is about getting closer to mass incarceration and extreme punishment in America. It is about how easily we condemn people in this country and the injustice we create when we allow fear, anger, and distance to

shape the way we treat the most vulnerable among us.”

During Stevenson’s legal career, he worked for the exoneration of innocent people and argued cases on five different occasions in front of the Supreme Court.

He grew up in Delaware, and his great-grandparents had been slaves in Virginia. When he was a teenager, his grandfather was murdered during a robbery.

After attending college and Harvard Law School, Stevenson moved to the South to start a legal career, defending those who had been wronged by the justice system due to their racial background. He went on to found the Equal Justice Initiative, based in Alabama.

Stevenson will visit ECU in November.

Just Mercy was named by *Time* magazine as one of the “10 Best Books of Nonfiction” for 2014. The book also received the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction, the NAACP Image Award for Nonfiction and the Books for a Better Life Award. The book is a finalist for the Los Angeles Book Prize and the Kirkus Reviews Prize and is an American Library Association Notable Book.

This is the ninth year of the Pirate Read program. Books from previous years include *The Other Wes Moore*, *It Happened on the Way to War* and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

—Sophronia Knott

ECU Military Alumni Reunion will be Nov. 11-12

Alumni of East Carolina University who have served in the military are invited to attend the Military Alumni Reunion during the university’s military appreciation weekend Nov. 11-12.

Hosted by the East Carolina Alumni Association’s Military Alumni Chapter, the reunion is open to any alumni with military service, including veterans who came to ECU after serving and graduates who entered the military after college, either through ROTC or independently.

“Military appreciation weekend is always the weekend I look forward to the most because it combines two special communities—my East Carolina family and my military family,” said Kirk Little ’82. “Going through four years of AFROTC with the same classmates who had shared experiences and goals was a tremendous gift to my educational process and I look forward to reuniting with them every year.”

Little, now the vice president and chief operations officer for Apogee Solutions after a career as an Air Force space operations officer, encourages alumni who have served in the military to attend the reunion.

“East Carolina has a long and steady tradition of supporting all branches of the military, and we all share the same bond of patriotism and service,” Little said. “Attending military alumni reunions is a time-honored

tradition within the military services and allows us a chance to reconnect, share common experiences and enjoy being with fellow service members.”

On Friday night, there will be a casual meet-and-greet at Trollingwood Taproom & Brewery. On Saturday, military alumni are invited to the alumni association’s Buccaneer Buffet at the soccer stadium three hours before kick-off. Then during the football game versus Southern Methodist University on Saturday, there will be a block of seats for veterans to enjoy the military appreciation observances.



Forrest Croce

100 YEARS AGO

Helen Keller visits East Carolina



Library of Congress

On May 1, 1916, Helen Keller and her teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy, visited ECTTS, and Keller spoke to a large crowd in the auditorium of the Administration Building. Keller, who was 35 at the time, spoke on the subject of happiness, to which she said, “The secret of happiness is to do for others.” With World War I raging in Europe, one audience member asked about the preparedness movement, which aimed to strengthen the U.S. military and promote American involvement in the conflict. “Dead against it,” said Keller. “Because it ultimately means war. But I would be for it if only Kaisers, kings and Congressmen were to do the fighting.”

Courtesy University Archives



Courtesy University Archives

ECU Hall of Famer John Christenbury coached ECTC’s 1941 football team to the only undefeated, untied season in school history. The Pirates went 7-0, beating teams such as the Portsmouth Naval Apprentices, Western Carolina Teachers College and Belmont Abbey. In four of the wins, the Pirates kept their opponents scoreless. Other Hall of Fame members on the team were Stuart Tripp, Billy Greene and Jack Young.

50 YEARS AGO

Saxophone virtuoso joins music faculty



Courtesy University Archives

Tenor saxophonist James Houlik begins his career at the School of Music, teaching and performing until 1977. He built a saxophone studio at ECU and the N.C. School of the Arts, where he held an adjunct professorship. While at East Carolina, Houlik, a native New Yorker, began his performing career with a well-received Washington, D.C., debut at the Phillips Collection. The *London Daily Mail* described him as “the world’s great saxophone virtuoso.”

25 YEARS AGO

Cunningham heads hospital medical staff



Courtesy University Archives

Dr. Paul R.G. Cunningham served as chief of the medical staff at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, the teaching hospital of ECU’s medical school during 1991. Cunningham, a trauma surgeon, taught at ECU until 2001, when he left to chair the surgery department at State University of New York-Upstate in Syracuse. He returned to ECU in 2008 as dean of the Brody School of Medicine. Earlier this year, he announced his retirement, effective September.

Dr. Paul R.G. Cunningham served as chief of the medical staff at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, the teaching hospital of ECU’s medical school during 1991. Cunningham, a trauma surgeon, taught at ECU until 2001, when he left

FALL ARTS AND EVENTS CALENDAR

BY JEANNINE MANNING HUTSON AND HARLEY DARTT

ON CAMPUS



Journalism icon **Bob Woodward** will present “The Age of the American Presidency” for the Premier Lecture of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

Woodward, who broke the news of the Watergate scandal during the Nixon administration with fellow *Washington Post* reporter Carl Bernstein, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 28 in Wright Auditorium. *The Washington Post* won the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its investigation of the Watergate case by Woodward and Bernstein. Their book *All the President's Men* was described as “perhaps the most influential piece of journalism in history” by *Time* magazine. Currently associate editor for *The Washington Post*, Woodward pulls the curtain back on Washington and its leaders, captivating audiences with fascinating stories featuring up-to-the-minute information expertly blended with historical reference for a truly unforgettable glimpse into American politics, the media and the biggest stories of the day.



The belief that religion is a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division is fundamental to **Eboo Patel**, founder and president of

Interfaith Youth Core, a Chicago-based international nonprofit that aims to promote interfaith cooperation. Patel will present the Religion and Culture Lecture of the Voyages series at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 in Wright Auditorium. A member of President Barack Obama's inaugural Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships, Patel is an American Ismaili of Gujarati Indian heritage. He has written two books about interfaith cooperation, *Acts of Faith* and *Sacred Ground*.

All lectures are ticketed.

Tickets are available by visiting www.ecu.edu/voyages.

Authors on campus

The Contemporary Writers Series, partnering with other groups, will bring two Pulitzer prize-winning authors to campus this fall.

Dramatist **Ayad Akhtar** will be at ECU on Oct. 12-13 as part of the “Pulitzer NC: The Power of Words”

program, sponsored in part by the N.C. Humanities Council and CWS. Akhtar is a Pakistani-American actor and writer born in New York City and reared in Wisconsin. His Pulitzer prize-winning play *Disgraced* (2012) dramatizes the tension in American multicultural society caused by the many racial and ethnic prejudices that have grown at an alarming rate in post-9-11 America and offers the pathos necessary for change.

And poet **Stephen Dunn** will be on campus Oct. 21, sponsored by the Great Books Program at the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and CWS. The Poetry Foundation website describes Dunn and his poetry as a reflection of “the social, cultural, psychological, and philosophical territory of the American middle class; his intelligent, lyrical poems narrate the regular episodes of an everyman speaker's growth, both as an individual and as part of a married—and later divorced—couple.”

The author of the fall 2016 Pirate Read selection will speak on campus Nov. 10. The themes in **Bryan Stevenson's memoir *Just Mercy*** relate to societal issues such as criminal justice, the impact of famous literature (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), social justice, police misconduct in the U.S. and children in the prison system, said Mary Beth Corbin, executive director of the ECU Office of Student Transitions. The location for Stevenson's free and open-to-the-public presentation will be announced later.

ON STAGE

The **Dance@Wright** performance will start the season and bring together an exciting and eclectic lineup of ballet, jazz, tap, modern and contemporary dance. The show will feature performances from light-hearted, comedic styles to moods of pure passion and intensity. Performances will be Sept. 16-18 in McGinnis Theatre. See www.ecuarts.com for times and ticket information.

The School of Theatre and Dance will present the Greek tragedy ***Medea*** on the stage at McGinnis Theatre Sept. 29-Oct. 4. Written by Euripedes and translated by Kenneth McLeish and Frederic Raphael, ***Medea*** is based on the myth of Jason and Medea and particularly her revenge against Jason when he returns from his quest for the Golden Fleece and his betrayal of her is discovered. Tickets are \$15 for the public, \$10 for students.

Inspired by the original 1936 film, the raucous musical comedy ***Reefer Madness*** takes a tongue-in-cheek

©2015 Lois Greenfield



Parsons Dance Company

look at the hysteria caused when clean-cut kids fall prey to marijuana, leading them to a hysterical downward spiral filled with evil jazz music, sex and violence. Based on the book by Kevin Murphy and Dan Studney, the show is a stylized and satirical political commentary and has a parental advisory. ***Reefer Madness*** will be presented Nov. 17-22 in McGinnis Theatre. Tickets are \$17.50 for general public and \$10 for students.

Contact the box office at 252-328-6829 or online at www.ECUARTS.com to purchase tickets for these productions.

S. RUDOLPH ALEXANDER PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series will open its season with the **Branford Marsalis Quartet with special guest Kurt Elling** at 8 p.m. Oct. 7. Marsalis on saxophones, Joey Calderazzo on piano, Eric Revis on bass and Justin Faulkner on drums rarely invite other musicians into their nearly telepathic unit. But Elling's deep jazz vocabulary, technical versatility and outstanding intonation will enable the band to perform a variety of material in new ways. The collaboration between jazz's most intense band and one of jazz's foremost singers will prove to be anything but standard.

The athletic, exuberant personality and joyous movement of the **Parsons Dance Company** will come to campus at 8 p.m. Oct. 27. The company's eight full-time dancers maintain a repertory of more than 80 works choreographed by David Parsons. Their style is a fusion of the gesture and movement

that make up the modern dance vocabulary coupled with the discipline and precise execution one expects from a classical company.

The story of Nannerl Mozart—not only the sister of Amadeus but also a prodigy, keyboard virtuoso and composer who performed throughout Europe with her brother to equal acclaim yet her work and story were lost to history—is told in ***The Other Mozart***. Based on facts, stories and lines pulled directly from the Mozart family's humorous and heartbreaking letters, *The Other Mozart* will be performed at 8 p.m. Nov. 10.

The Hot Sardines with their sound described as “straight-up, foot-stomping jazz” will bring their Holiday Stomp to campus at 4 p.m. Dec. 4. In their holiday concert, the Sardines infuse yuletide classics with lesser-known gems such as Ella Fitzgerald's “Santa Claus Got Stuck in My Chimney.”

p.m. “The President's Own” began touring in 1891 under the leadership of John Philip Sousa. This is a free concert, but tickets are required. Visit marineband.ticketleap.com for information.

MUSIC

Festivals

ECU's **Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival** presents two concert residencies at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall in Greenville this fall, with the Season Opening Extravaganza Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 16 at 8 p.m., featuring Thomas Sauer, piano, festival director Ara Gregorian, violin, Xiao-Dong Wang, viola and Raman Ramakrishnan, cello; and Chamber Music Monuments on Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 18 at 8 p.m., featuring Adam Neiman, piano; Gregorian, violin and Marcy Rosen, cello.

The festival presents the Season Opening Extravaganza concert residency on Sept. 18 and Chamber



Julia Den Boer

Four Seasons Next Generation concerts are scheduled for Greensboro Day School in Greensboro on Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. and St. Ann Catholic Church in Charlotte on Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. Next Generation concerts feature ECU faculty artists in collaboration with former and current ECU students and area pre-college students. The Greensboro concert is free, unticketed and open to the public. The Charlotte concert is part of the ticketed Gaudium Musicae concert series and includes a reception. Charlotte tickets can be purchased at www.stanncharlotte.org or at the door.

The innovative Four Seasons Chamber Music Dressed Down concert series, featuring chamber music's greatest repertoire performed in intimate settings, will be presented at the Contemporary Art Museum in Raleigh on Nov. 3 and at the Martinsborough in Uptown Greenville on Nov. 4. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., with receptions at 7 p.m. For tickets, www.ecu.edu/fourseasons, 1-800-ECU-ARTS or 252-328-4788.

For more information about the Four Seasons concerts, call 252-328-6019 or visit www.ecu.edu/fourseasons.

ECU's **North Carolina NewMusic Initiative**, Ed Jacobs, director, welcomes bass clarinetist Michael Lowenstern on Sept. 29. A cross of Eric Dolphy, Meat Beat Manifesto, NPR's *This American Life*, The Gap Band and Igor Stravinsky, Lowenstern's sound, “ClassicoFunkTronica,” defies definition. His shows employ computers, props and electronic gizmos, and he brings everything from consumer electronics to

harmonicas and the occasional piece of homemade gear.

On Nov. 3, pianist Julia Den Boer joins the NewMusic Initiative to perform five contemporary compositions including a world premiere written by Mathew Rickets. Born in Lyon, France, and now based in New York City as music director at the Church of the Ascension in Brooklyn, Den Boer performs internationally and has commissioned and premiered numerous works.

ECU School of Music performers focus their talents on the music of ECU composers in first-ever public presentations in NewMusic's Premiere Performances on Nov. 11. This is the first of three concerts each year dedicated to the newest ideas of ECU's developing young composers.

All the above North Carolina NewMusic Initiative events are in ECU's A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. For more information, see ecu.edu/music/newmusic or call 252-328-4280.

Opera

The ECU Opera Theater and the North Carolina NewMusic Initiative partner to present writer Gertrude Stein and composer Virgil Thomson's opera ***Four Saints in Three Acts*** on Oct. 23-25. With its nontraditional casting, unique production team, non-narrative libretto and quintessentially American musical tone, the show's 1934 premier rocked the musical world and landed the production on Broadway. This production will pay tribute to the original spirit of the opera while molding it to feature



The Hot Sardines

All SRAPAS performances will be held in Wright Auditorium. Subscriptions and individual tickets are available at 252-328-4788 or www.ECUARTS.com.

The United States Marine Band—The President's Own, described by *The Washington Post* as “the best band in the world,” will return to Wright Auditorium on Oct. 3 at 7

Music Monuments concert residency on Nov. 20 at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh. Both Raleigh concerts are at 3 p.m. The Greenville and Raleigh residency concerts feature world-class artists performing classic works of the chamber music repertoire. For tickets, www.ecu.edu/fourseasons, 800-ECU-ARTS or 252-328-4788.



Forrest Croce

ECU students' special talents and voices. James Franklin conducts with John Kramar, opera theater director, as stage director. All performances are in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for faculty, staff and seniors and \$5 for students. Tickets are available at the door or by calling the Central Ticket Office at 800-328-2787 or 328-4788, or online at www.ECUArts.com.

Orchestra

Maestro Jorge Richter presents the ECU Symphony Orchestra in concert three times in the fall: Sept. 24 and Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in ECU's Wright Auditorium, and with the ECU choirs on Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville.

All symphony orchestra concerts

are free and open to the public.

Choirs

The ECU Men's Choir and Women's Choir present a fall concert at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville on Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m., the Collegiate Choir performs at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m. and the choirs join the ECU Symphony Orchestra for Faure's *Requiem* at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Dec. 5, also at 7:30 p.m.

For more choir concerts visit the School of Music calendar at www.ecu.edu/music or call 252-328-6243.

Bands

The ECU Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble take center stage for Bandorama concerts Sept. 20 and Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in ECU's Wright Auditorium. Free and

the public is invited.

Faculty performances

ECU soprano Rachel Copeland and guest pianist Jo Greenway present a concert of selections from the French vocal repertoire Sept. 2. Christine Gustafson, flute, and Catherine Garner, piano, play a faculty duo recital Oct. 7 featuring the music of Howard Hanson and Paul Schoenfield.

All faculty concerts are in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m., are free and open to the public and include a meet-the-artists reception afterward.

Guest artists

Romanian-born multi-award-winning classical and flamenco guitarist Silviu Ciulei comes as a guest artist to A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27. Ciulei is former first-prize winner at the ECU Guitar Festival and Competition. Free and open to the public.

FAMILY FARE

Two Family Fare Series performances will come to the Wright Auditorium stage this fall. Both will be at 7 p.m. and are appropriate for elementary school-aged children. Season subscriptions and individual tickets are available at 252-328-4788 and www.ECUARTS.com.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe will be presented Oct. 21 by ECU Storybook Theatre and tells the tale based on C.S. Lewis' adventure story: four children in war-torn England accidentally enter the land of Narnia by climbing through a magical wardrobe. Narnia's ruler, the cold-hearted White Witch, makes winter last year-round. Although they seem unlikely saviors, the children fulfill an ancient prophecy, defeat the witch, restore sunshine and peace to the spellbound land and return the great lion Aslan to his throne.

Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the bravest Chihuahua of them all? Skippyjon Jones, of course. From Theatreworks USA comes



Skippyjon Jones: Snow What on Nov. 18, a new musical based on the book by Judy Schachner. While his sisters listen to *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*, Skippy heads off for a real adventure awaiting him in his closet.

EXHIBITS

The Wellington B. Gray Gallery will present **The North Carolina Sculpture Consortium Exhibition** on Sept. 2-30. This is an invitational exhibition organized by ECU sculpture professor Hanna Jubran and will feature the work of approximately 18 North Carolina sculpture educators. It includes an opening reception Sept. 2 at 5 p.m. and a closing reception Sept. 30 at 5 p.m.

The School of Art and Design Faculty Exhibition: A Tradition of Excellence

will be in Gray Gallery Oct. 7-Nov. 4, with an artist reception Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. The exhibition displays the work of the school's art and design faculty covering a variety of media: graphic design, cinema, illustration, ceramics, textile design, printmaking, painting, drawing, sculpture, animation, metal design and photography.

The national tour of **IMAGINE PEACE NOW Exhibition** will be in Gray Gallery Nov. 21-Jan. 16. The Innovative Merger of Art & Guns to Inspire New Expressions, or IMAGINE PEACE NOW Exhibition, is a juried show of art made from disabled guns collected from buy-back programs and transformed by approximately 80 international artists. Included pieces respond to and initiate conversations regarding gun violence in American culture. The featured artists include ECU faculty members Ken Bova, Robert Ebendorf, Gerald Weckesser, Tim Lazure and Dindy Reich, former faculty member Joe Muench and former ECU students Sharon Massey and Heath Wagoner. An artist reception will be at 5 p.m. on Dec. 2.

The Wellington B. Gray Gallery is in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and admission is free. The gallery is closed for all university holidays. For more information, call 252-328-1312 or visit www.ecu.edu/graygallery.

The Erwin Gallery presents **four exhibitions by School of Art and Design faculty and staff**. Included are Craig Malmrose, prints, Aug. 15-Sept. 16, reception Sept. 8; Sue Luddeke, painting and portraits, Sept. 19-Oct. 7, reception Sept. 29; Kristina Smith, photography, Oct. 12-Nov. 14, reception Oct. 13; and Judd Snapp, wood design and furniture, Nov. 7-Jan. 13, reception Nov. 10.

The Erwin Gallery is in the historic Erwin Building on the ECU campus. Public hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Free admission. All receptions are at 4 p.m.

5 minutes with Stephen Igoe '14

Position: Founder/Publisher of Hoist The Colours and publisher of Carolina Panthers on 247Sports

Degree: Bachelor's in communication

Hometown: Greenville

If you're an avid Pirate or Carolina Panthers fan, you might already know about Igoe. If not, get ready to bookmark his websites, www.HoistTheColours.net and www.car.247sports.com, and follow him on social media.

I cover East Carolina sports and recruiting and the Carolina Panthers of the NFL. My primary job is covering ECU football, basketball and baseball games first-hand, along with recruiting, and providing content from a local online perspective that no one else can match.

Hoist The Colours has become the leading brand for online ECU sports news. In 2015, our site had 7.38 million page views and reached around 400,000 users. The HTC Facebook page has more than 32,000 likes. The Panthers site has pulled in more than 17 million page views since I took over in August of 2015. That Facebook page has more than 200,000 likes.

Growing up as a kid who followed ECU sports closely, I felt like there wasn't enough of an online presence for Pirate sports information. East Carolina fans are simply the best. They have a passion for the sports teams here that is unmatched in North Carolina. As a freshman at ECU in 2010, I did my research and started Hoist The Colours on my own. It took a few years, but I worked my way up, gained media credentials and eventually signed on with 247Sports in 2012.

When I started my website, I knew I had a natural ability to write about sports, but I didn't know anything close to what I needed to. I was fortunate enough to have some incredible journalism and multimedia instructors who taught me the ins and outs. I always knew how to write words and state the facts, but they taught me how to tell stories.

I learned two important lessons at ECU. First, to make it in the sports media field, you have to be willing to work your tail off. There are rarely any true off days, and you're almost always on call. Second, it may sound cliché, but don't ever let somebody tell you that you can't do something. No one believed I could make a living working primarily through a website. But if you know what you're doing, apply yourself and have the drive, anything is possible.

We want to hear stories from alumni about how their experiences at ECU shaped them today and how they pass those lessons to others. Send us an email at easteditor@ecu.edu.

Photograph by Cliff Hollis, ECU News Services



A photograph of Chancellor Cecil Staton, a man with glasses wearing a dark blue suit, light blue shirt, and purple tie. He is standing outdoors in front of a large, multi-tiered fountain with water spraying upwards. The background is filled with lush green trees and a well-maintained lawn with some yellow flowers. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Aiming high

Chancellor Cecil Staton has big plans for ECU.

BY DOUG BOYD PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAY CLARK AND CLIFF HOLLIS

The thing about Cecil Staton is that no matter how you try, you just can't pin him down into one column.

Is he an academic or an entrepreneur? A politician or an administrator? A moderate scholar or a conservative legislator?

“It’s hard to get me in a box, though people try to do that,” East Carolina University’s new chancellor says on one of his early visits to campus before he took office July 1. “My wife tells our sons, ‘Your father gets bored easily.’ I hope that’s not true. Nevertheless...,” and he moves on to another topic.

As ECU’s 11th chancellor, he’s taking the helm at a time of uncertainty in numerous areas from legislative funding to the future of ECU’s medical school. Thus, a conversation with him covers a lot of topics, but one thread runs through them all.

“It’s important to dream it up and have a vision,” says Staton, 58. That vision includes raising several hundred million dollars in a capital campaign, getting the Brody School of Medicine on solid ground, boosting research dollars and more. “I see no virtue in mediocrity. I see ECU as being on a great trajectory. I think it’s on the cusp of being a nationally prominent university.”

From a mill town to Oxford

To see how Staton arrived in Greenville, North Carolina, you must look to Greenville, South Carolina. In the 1960s, the upstate city wasn’t all that different from ECU’s Greenville of the same era, except instead of tobacco farms and giant leaf warehouses, textile mills dominated the economy. Staton grew up within sight of one.

His father was born in the town and operated Cecil’s Shoe Repair. His mother, now in her 80s, has worked in the mortgage business for more than 40 years.

He graduated from Carolina High School and enrolled at nearby Furman University—the first in his immediate family to attend a university. Meeting with ECU students in April the day after he was named chancellor,

he described himself as a conservative Baptist walking onto a college campus near the end of the Vietnam War and hearing things about his country that didn’t sit right with him.

“It made me think about what I believe,” he said to the students. “It made me think about my opinions. It made me a stronger person.”

Calling himself “a late bloomer,” Staton completed his religion degree at Furman, then earned master of theology and master of divinity degrees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest and a doctorate in Old Testament, Hebrew and ancient Near Eastern studies from the University of Oxford in England.

He then began his academic career at Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Georgia, where he was an assistant professor of religion from 1989-91. Staton also served as associate provost, associate professor and university publisher at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia.

He also started and led three communications companies: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, a publisher of books and curriculum products; Stroud and Hall Publishers, a publisher of books on politics and current events; and Georgia Eagle Media, a holding company for broadcasting, newspaper and media properties.

Mike Dyer is president and CEO of the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce and Macon Economic Development Commission. He worked with Staton on some large-scale projects.

“Cecil is a good businessman, very bright and passionate about his beliefs and values,” Dyer said in an email. “Additionally, he is a hard worker and committed to his causes.”

To politics and back

In 2004, Staton was elected to the Georgia Senate representing Macon and its surrounding area. His legislative career is wide-ranging and generally falls on the conservative side of issues. But some of his work sheds light on how he might lead ECU and deal with issues facing the university.

For example, he chaired a study committee that looked into the shortage of doctors and nurses in the state. Among its recommendations were increasing the number of medical and nursing students, urging the federal government to raise the number of medical residency slots, protecting the 1,000 residency slots at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and expanding doctoral programs in nursing. This year, 72 new residency positions opened in the state.

He worked to establish the Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission that would fund hospitals with trauma centers partly through different taxes and surcharges. Grady Hospital, one of the nation’s busiest trauma centers, nearly closed in 2007 due to financial straits, and the trauma network was seen as one way to help.

“It wasn’t a popular thing to do from my political background,” he says. “Republicans weren’t ready to bail out a hospital that didn’t serve their constituents.”

Dr. Leon Haley, Emory School of Medicine’s executive associate dean of clinical services for Grady Memorial Hospital, worked with Staton as the commission was being developed. In 2007, he was chief of emergency medicine and deputy chief medical officer at Grady and says supporting trauma at that time meant supporting Grady.

“Even just trying to figure out how to get all the people together... shows his ability to be collaborative and work hard to find a funding source,” Haley says. “Sen. Staton was very instrumental in getting that group together.”

In 2012, he sponsored legislation that increased the borrowing cap for construction on technical college and university campuses from \$300 million to \$500 million. The legislation passed.

After he left the Senate in 2014 and was the Georgia university system’s vice chancellor for extended education, the system waived mandatory student fees for active duty service members using military tuition-assistance programs to attend institutions within the system.

And earlier this year while interim president at Valdosta State University, he opposed a bill that would have allowed concealed carry of firearms by licensed owners on state college and university campuses. Gov. Nathan Deal vetoed the measure in May.

At VSU, Staton was faced with a near-crisis when he was tapped last summer to take over and get things back in shape. Enrollment

had dropped almost 12 percent from a high of 13,089 students in 2011. Credit hour production had fallen, which reduced the school’s funding.

Staton set to work cutting the school’s budget—in the process eliminating about 30 faculty positions—and began a marketing campaign to recruit new students. He refocused VSU on student retention and success.

Not all his moves were popular, but nearly a year later, admissions had grown 22 percent, or 1,700 students, according to his state of the university address in April. A capital campaign that began before Staton arrived on campus raised \$16 million during the fiscal year.

“I went there more or less to be a fixer,” Staton says. He’s aiming to do more at ECU.



Cecil P. Staton Jr.

E D U C A T I O N

Bachelor’s degree, Furman University

Master’s degrees, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Doctorate, Oxford University

C A R E E R

Educator, entrepreneur, politician

F A M I L Y

Wife, Catherine Davidson Staton, married 30 years

Sons, Cecil P. Staton III and William Davidson Staton

A new Greenville

On a July morning a week into his tenure at ECU, Staton addresses a group of students and parents during orientation.

“A university’s a very interesting place,” he tells the crowd at Wright Auditorium. “Look around you. You’re going to meet a lot of different people while you’re here at ECU.”

Different people, different backgrounds, different outlooks, different dreams.

“That’s what college is all about, and that’s what the world is all about,” he says.

He talks a bit more, then makes a promise to the students.

“We’re going to have a great freshman year together,” he says.

Students say they like his down-to-earth demeanor. He chats with them most mornings while in line at a campus coffee shop.

“He’s definitely someone you could have a conversation with and not even realize he’s the chancellor,” says senior Emily Schultz of Delaware, a communication major who worked as an orientation assistant during the summer.

Fellow senior Brittney DeWitte, a senior from Cary, says she hopes the new chancellor can make good on his goals of growing ECU and expanding its reputation.

“Even in the past three years I’ve been here, we’ve seen tremendous growth in the reputation of our campus,” she says. “It adds value to our degrees.”

“ECU doesn’t get enough credit,” adds Schultz.

Staton has a solid starting point for what he wants to accomplish.

“ECU is in a good place,” he says. Administrators and trustees have worked through budget cuts by streamlining operations and academic programs, but there’s still work to do in the areas of faculty salaries and stabilizing the finances of the medical school. That work in large part will depend on decisions made in the Legislature. Thus, he says, continuing to build relationships

with lawmakers and educating them about the uniqueness of Brody are vital.

“They don’t come to the position with an intimate knowledge of all the issues of the day you have to vote on,” he says, recalling his own legislative experiences.

By design, Brody’s tuition is low, and it doesn’t own a hospital that could help bridge revenue gaps. In addition, legislators have cut its budget and reduced two of the ways the school collected revenue.

Nevertheless, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Phyllis Horns likes what she heard in her first conversations with Staton and sees a promising future for campus. Staton, she says, is committed to the mission of the medical school and the other health sciences programs to provide health care professionals for the state and improve the health status of eastern North Carolinians. She also says the new chancellor has expressed support for growing the Department of Public Health into a School of Public Health.

“He talks about promises made, promises kept, and our data are demonstrable in that regard,” she says. “I’m feeling a great deal of enthusiasm for him and how we can work at ECU and take steps to advance the health care workforce in eastern North Carolina. We’re going to grow.”

ECU will also continue its relationship with Vidant Health, which owns ECU’s primary teaching hospital and is in the process of merging its medical group practice with ECU’s.

“With his experience, dedication and understanding of the issues that we face in eastern North Carolina, I am confident that he will lead the university to great success,” says Michael Waldrum, CEO of Vidant Health. “He has experience in the health sciences and a passion to grow our programs to meet the needs of our great state.”

Terrence Campbell, who’s in his final year of dental school, was one of the students who met with Staton in April. Afterward, he said Staton’s experience at Mercer makes him

optimistic the new chancellor will be familiar with “the issues that we will have and more able to understand our needs on the Health Sciences Campus.”

In addition to stable legislative funding for the medical school and the rest of campus, Staton also wants ECU to crack the \$100 million mark in external funding for research. The school brought in \$46 million to \$48 million in external awards in the last fiscal year, and some relatively new programs are focusing on building research, including engineering, dental medicine and public health.

In addition, Provost Ron Mitchelson last year set a goal of 20 percent of faculty members becoming federally funded.

“Achieving that goal would move ECU close to the \$100 million goal put forth by Dr. Staton,” says Michael Van Scott, interim vice chancellor for research, economic development and engagement at ECU. “Faculty and students drive research. ECU has great faculty and students. If we can find the right ways to support the faculty and students, we can reach \$100 million in extramural support.”

Looking ahead

After Staton spoke to students in July, junior Andrea Tyler of Pembroke said he made a good impression and added, “I’m excited to be part of the ECU Nation when we get a new chancellor.”

For his part, Staton seems excited, too, and is already working.

“You get one life,” he says, “and from my point of view, pack everything you can into it every day.”

And that goal of his to make ECU a “nationally prominent university”? He’s serious.

“We have the resources to do that,” he says, “we have the people to do that, and I think it’s time.”

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At the Conetoe Family Life Center, some students and graduates of the lay health advising curriculum, developed at ECU, pose with Ruth Little '14 (back row, center), assistant professor of public health, and Edgecombe County Health Director Karen LaChapelle '96 (on Little's left). Also pictured on the back row is the Rev. Richard Joyner, pastor of the CFLC congregation.

Road maps to health

ECU helps rural residents learn to help others and themselves



BY AMY ADAMS ELLIS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

It's fitting the Conetoe Family Life Center in rural Edgecombe County sits alongside the railroad tracks. This place is all about creating connections.

On a hot and humid afternoon, a couple of dozen people have gathered on the church grounds to connect with each other and compare notes about the passion they share: to see their communities become healthier.

Everyone here either has completed or is enrolled in a lay health-coaching course developed and refined by faculty members from East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine and College of Nursing. Graduates of the 96-hour curriculum serve as volunteer health advisors in homes and churches of their underserved neighbors—statistically, some of the poorest, sickest people in eastern North Carolina.

“My health coach helped me a lot... with my weight, my blood pressure, my sugar.... I walk more than I used to walk.... They tried to get you whatever help you might need, whether it was diabetes or blood pressure or whatever.... The main thing, they care about you.”

Data show the volunteer advisors are helping improve health outcomes for this marginalized segment of the population by targeting behaviors related to weight and nutrition, activity level, diabetes and blood pressure management, and access to care.

“Remember this is about incremental change,” says Ruth Little '14, an assistant professor in the Department of Public Health at Brody, who's there with Edgecombe County Health Director Karen LaChapelle '96.

Little, an eastern North Carolina native and pastor's daughter, has spent years working with an interdisciplinary team—and about

\$1.5 million in grant funding—testing and tweaking the curriculum.

She's been helped along the way by churches, federally qualified health centers, health departments, community physicians and dentists, hospitals, community colleges and Access East, a not-for-profit corporation established by various community health partner organizations—including Brody and Vidant Medical Center—to improve health access and health outcomes for the East's most vulnerable population.

“You have to be willing to stick with someone even when they don't show change quickly,” Little tells the group.

One woman testifies that smoked turkey necks are just as flavorful as ham hocks when it comes to seasoning collard greens. Another says her 5-year-old grandson has learned to compare the sugar content on nutrition labels of various foods.

As the women share secret ingredients and healthy alternatives to preparing food, Little says a not-so-secret ingredient—and this program's key to success—is simple: love.

“It's about authentically loving people,” Little says. “It's showing people your heart, not just your knowledge. It's demonstrating compassion over a long period of time, being willing to go into peoples' homes and churches. It's taking the program to the patients and not the other way around.”

Getting to the 'why'

Few of the lay health advisors had previous medical experience when they signed up for the training. But now they're working in health care settings, churches and community organizations under the guidance of licensed health care professionals, helping to educate, support and encourage patients who've been identified by various health agencies as needing special assistance to manage their chronic diseases.

They hold exercise and nutrition classes and health fairs. They're helping neighbors better understand health issues and how to

partner more effectively with primary care providers. They're trained to go beyond the “what” to the “why” in explaining the importance of taking medications correctly and keeping doctors' appointments.

They call their mentees weekly, visit them monthly and accompany them to medical appointments. They help them set personal health goals and overcome barriers to care. They connect spiritual wellness to physical wellness, patients to providers, gaping needs to available resources.

Jasmine Dozier was trained as a health coach in 2013 for Community Care Plan of Eastern Carolina, a collaborative network of primary care physicians, care managers, hospitals, public health and social service agencies that aims to improve the health of eastern North Carolina's Medicaid population. Dozier coached 30 individuals for a year and now provides the services at her church. She says consistency is what makes the model work.

“Some of these people didn't have anyone calling to check on them before. But they got used to my voice,” she says. “Knowing that people from their community are taking interest in them makes the difference. I gained their trust.”

“Health coach's pleasant words.... It's a help to the soul, you know, pleasant words. That's the difference between the telemarketer and someone who's concerned about your well-being... putting extra pressure on you, versus somebody calling you concerned about your health.... That's good for the soul.”

The project was born in 2007, when the North Carolina Office of Minority Health sponsored a faith-based lay diabetes



education pilot in minority churches in Jones County, where Little had conducted pilot work as the county’s health director. The pilot’s success led the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund to invest \$600,000 to expand the project into Edgecombe, Lenoir and Duplin counties, other eastern counties with severe chronic health issues.

Another KBR grant of nearly \$764,000 funded a community health-coaching partnership in 2013 in the same counties between Access East, CCPEC and Little. It supported translating the curriculum for use in North Carolina Community Colleges, which approved the course last fall and offered the inaugural class at Edgecombe Community College.

To date, more than 75 health coaches have been trained, impacting nearly 1,000 people. And those coaches are making a difference.

Health data for 300 predominantly African-American individuals across three counties—half of whom had received coaching for a year—showed the coached group lost an average of 5 pounds, while those receiving no intervention gained an average of 2.5 pounds.

“Until you walk in my shoes, you don’t know what I’m going through.... It was that little push that she gave me to want to take my medicine...to better myself...so I can stay here longer for my kids.”

On average, coached participants lowered their systolic blood pressure by 4.5 points and their diastolic blood pressure by 2.25 points, while those in the control group experienced an increase of 12.5 points in systolic pressure and 4.06 in diastolic pressure.



They also reported fewer emergency department visits, fewer missed doctor’s appointments, greater adherence to treatment plans and vital assistance with issues like housing, medication, transportation and Medicaid eligibility.

Rosa Joyner Steele, a toned, vivacious woman in boots and a straw hat, was the first lay health coach trained at Conetoe Family Life Center. She recalls one individual whose nutritional challenges hinged on their lack of a refrigerator. She connected them with a family who had one they didn’t need.

“It’s about being tenacious and going the extra mile,” she says. “Asking them if they need a ride. Going with them to the doctor and asking embarrassing questions. Picking fresh vegetables and delivering them to their homes.”

Steele helps maintain the enormous community garden on the church property—a rainbow of corn, zucchini, tomatoes, blueberries and other produce. One of her goals is to connect local youth with seniors who can teach them how to can vegetables and make preserves.

Her cousin and pastor of the congregation, Richard Joyner, garnered national attention when he was named a CNN “Top Ten

Hero of 2015” for his tireless efforts to address chronic disease in his community. Today he delivers a passionate pep talk, building his sermonette around words such as “mobility, accessibility, sustainability, credibility.”

Partnerships with purpose

Faith-based health initiatives are nothing new, harking back to the parish nurses who have played integral roles in traditional Episcopal and Catholic congregations. But they’ve become a national trend, in minority and underserved populations especially, as public health leaders have increasingly recognized and leveraged the church’s influence.

“Nondenominational churches are the fastest growing in eastern North Carolina and across the United States,” Little says. “Our goal was to develop a curriculum that wasn’t exclusive to one denomination or even to faith communities. Studies reveal that health coaches can be effective paraprofessional members of health care teams in churches as well as medical practices.”

Next is expanding partnerships so outcomes can be measured in a broader population; growing into more counties and community colleges and offering the curriculum online; and continuing work to establish a state-recognized certification for coaches.

Meanwhile, in Conetoe, the little church by the railroad tracks will keep making connections that make its community healthier.

“We need this from a grassroots community basis more than any other county,” says Joyner. “We need to teach people how to not just manage chronic diseases, but how to prevent them in the first place.”

Thus, the county with one of the worst rates of chronic disease is leading the way to a healthier North Carolina. That may seem ironic to some, but not to Little.

“I think that’s scriptural,” she says. **East**



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Giving voice

The North Carolina Literary Review
commemorates 25 years of N.C. writing

BY JULES NORWOOD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS

From left, Dana Ezzell, *NCLR* art director,
Margaret Bauer, editor and Rives Chair
of Southern Literature, and Liza Wieland,
fiction editor





From the mountains with their brilliant autumn displays, to rivers winding through pine forests and past bustling cities, to the marshlands and beaches of the coast, North Carolina has inspired generations of writers to put pen to paper.

Since 1992, the *North Carolina Literary Review*, produced at East Carolina University, has given a voice to those writers, celebrating the poetry and prose of the Old North State as well as its artists. This summer, *NCLR* readers received printed copies of the 25th issue of the journal, featuring award-winning writers, book reviews and an interview with editor Margaret Bauer celebrating the milestone.

“I think it speaks volumes that East Carolina was the institution that took the initiative to create a *North Carolina Literary Review*,” says Ed Southern, executive director of the North Carolina Writers’ Network. “There has always been a strong literary tradition there, going back decades. It serves a student body from throughout the state and beyond the state, and by being the university of eastern North Carolina, it plays a vital

role in fostering and strengthening the literary culture there.”

Another N.C. writer, Allan Gurganus, agrees: “The *NCLR* is essential in promoting Humane Narrative as North Carolina’s greatest export.”

Voice

Each issue of *NCLR* finds its own balance. New writers and established voices, fiction, nonfiction and poetry—space is carved out for each, and Bauer says it happens naturally. Fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry are chosen through annual contests, while book reviews and interviews are submitted or solicited.

While each issue has its own theme, North Carolina is the constant thread running throughout. The diversity of the state and its people are a large part of what has made *NCLR* successful, along with the support its writers show for each other.

There is a wide variety of experience, Bauer says. In addition to N.C. natives, the university system brings people in who interact and influence each other. There is geographical diversity as well as cultural diversity.

“North Carolina inspires writers because to live in this state is to live in cultural tension,” says Zackary Vernon, assistant professor of English at Appalachian State University, who curated Bauer’s interview for *NCLR*’s 25th issue.

“In North Carolina, past and present, one can experience a staggering range of cultural, ideological, political, economic, religious and educational platforms,” he says. “As a result, North Carolina is and has always been a battleground state, and out of conflict, out of serious cultural contemplation, comes both engrossing drama and engaging intellectual debate, two key ingredients for great art.”

Southern says the publication serves as a flagship for the state’s literary community.

“Each issue shows off the state at its best, especially because Margaret and her staff don’t just keep going back to the same well of favorites (no matter how deep and refreshing that well may be),” he says. “They’ve made the re-discovery of forgotten or neglected North Carolina writers an integral part of their mission and made sure to show off many of our new and emerging writers, as well.”

North Carolina literary figures such as Clyde Edgerton, Jim Grimsley, Jill McCorkle, Fred Chappell and Lee Smith have appeared in *NCLR*’s pages. But Bauer says it’s not uncommon to hear from a writer that the piece was their first publication, or even the first story they’ve written, as is the case for the winner of this year’s Doris Betts Fiction Prize, whose piece will appear in the 2017 issue.

“It’s a wonderful way for the literary community of North Carolina to be informed about writers that they may not know,” says L. Theresa Church. “It’s a large state, and there are new people coming into the literary community all the time. So this journal gives them a way to know about each other.”

Church’s essay on the Carolina African American Writers’ Collective, which also recently celebrated a milestone, appears in the 2016 issue of *NCLR*.

“We may write for ourselves,” she says, “but if we have something to say, we’re trying to say it to someone. You want to share, and it’s a way to make yourself known in larger circles.”

Dannye Romine Powell, book review columnist for the *Charlotte Observer* and author of three collections of poetry, says her copies of *NCLR* are keepsakes she cannot let go. “They are, individually, a clear window onto the world of literary activity in North Carolina. Taken together, they are an encyclopedia of all you need to know about the great wealth of our literary artists in this state,” she says. “The *NCLR* is truly an indispensable treasure.”

Vision

Alex Albright, founding editor, says *NCLR* was the brainchild of Keats Sparrow, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“He wanted the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, of which he was president, to publish a companion journal to the *North Carolina Historical Review*, which had been published since the 1920s,” Albright says. “And he really wanted it to be published at ECU.”

From the beginning, he says, the vision was to create a place for previously unknown writers to be published alongside North Carolina’s best. “We wanted to make a magazine that gave our state’s literature a strong historical and cultural context, one that recognized the diversity of both its writers and readers,” says Albright.

The journal was innovative in several ways, providing an outlet for publishing not only fiction and poetry, but also creative nonfiction such as essays and memoirs. Book reviews and interviews with writers added a scholarly writing element.

NCLR’s first art director, Eva Roberts, was responsible for making the publication stand out visually at a time when most literary journals were mostly text, Bauer says. And art director Dana Ezzell, who has been involved with *NCLR* since 1996 when she was a graphic design student at ECU, has ensured that it remains unique.

“Each issue was handcrafted by writers, designers, artists and photographers—a weaving of word, story and meaning—the exact elements that I found passion in exploring,” Ezzell says.

Like the writers, the artists featured in *NCLR* have North Carolina connections.

Many journals have fallen to the rise of online publication, says poet Jaki Shelton Green, but the longevity of *NCLR* speaks to its quality and the dedication of its staff.

“They have their ear to the ground in terms of appreciating and celebrating the diversity of writers and writing styles across the state.

They do that in a very eloquent way, so that they’re able to bring all these different voices together between the covers of this unique magazine,” she says.

In addition to the annual print issue, an online issue was added in 2012. Each year the two issues feature unique but often complementary content.

Scholarship

ECU students are involved in nearly every aspect of producing *NCLR*. They help edit, fact-check and manage the publication. Several undergraduate interns and one or two graduate students serve as editorial assistants. Each receives invaluable real-world experience in putting together a publication.

“They learn everything from basic formatting to fact-checking,” says Bauer. “They help with literary events that we go to, so they get to meet writers and make contacts, learn about the marketing. And they watch me go crazy sometimes.”

Tim Buchanan ’15 was a graduate assistant for *NCLR* in 2013 while working on a master of arts in English with a concentration in creative writing. A story he wrote for *NCLR* fiction editor Liza Weiland’s advanced fiction workshop earned him the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Intro Journals Prize in 2014.

“The practice I got while reading other people’s work helped me recognize what was good and not in my own writing and helped hone my critical eye,” Buchanan says.

After publication, issues of *NCLR* often find their way into the classroom as teaching tools. Bauer says she uses them as an example of a literary journal to teach students about layout, captions, footnotes and style. She also uses interviews or creative pieces when teaching about a writer who has appeared in its pages.

Brian Glover uses *NCLR* in his introduction to short stories class. The class is primarily for non-English majors, and Glover wanted to find a way to encourage his students to read for themselves.

“I started thinking about ways to give students some choices and control over what they’re studying, while at the same time making sure they’re being exposed to good writing and learning the things they should learn,” he says.

Glover divides the class into small groups, and each group is assigned a literary journal, one of which is *NCLR*. Everyone reads and chooses the works they’d like to study, and each group has to come to a consensus and explain its choice to the class.

“The interesting part is where the students have to articulate what’s valuable about the story,” Glover says. “*NCLR* gives them something that’s very close to them, stories that are by North Carolina writers or about North Carolina, and that’s an important part of the mix.”

Bauer, a self-described writer groupie, says she enjoys working with the state’s writers as well as *NCLR*’s staff and students. As the journal moves into its next quarter-century, she is working with the ECU Foundation to raise funds for a \$2 million endowment to ensure its continued publication.

“I have gotten to meet some of my favorite writers, and they have sat on my front porch telling me stories and answering my questions about their work,” she says. “It’s been amazing, and they’re such warm people. I wouldn’t give it up for anything.”

The publication is available in bookstores or by subscription. Back issues and additional information can be found at nclr.ecu.edu.

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Making it count

Bernita Demery doesn't let a day pass without helping others

BY JAMIE SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY BY CLIFF HOLLIS



Children surround the kitchen table and their laughter fills the home of Bernita Demery '02 as she shares hugs with the small crew that has accompanied her home from church on this beautiful Sunday afternoon.

"I love children. Even in the next season of life I want to do something that keeps me in touch with young people," she says.

For Demery, life is about giving back and realizing everything we do impacts someone else. She hopes the small seeds she plants by spending time with children grow into the realization that success is within their grasp.

"I live by Dr. King's motto, 'If I can help someone as I pass along . . . then my living will not be in vain,'" says Demery, calling out a portion of a song performed by Mahalia Jackson, a favorite of Martin Luther King Jr. and used in his 1968 sermon, "The Drum Major Instinct."

Demery, who received her master's degree in business administration from East Carolina University, lives out this motto in her personal and professional life. She has built a successful career as the financial director and chief financial officer for the city of Greenville and is known throughout the community for helping and encouraging others.

Strong roots

She grew up in Halifax, a small town in northeastern North Carolina, and is the youngest and only girl of five children. When Demery was 8 months old, her father died, leaving her mother to raise the children alone. Early on in life, the influence of her family helped shape her.

As a young girl Demery's mother, Mildred Whitaker, would share the bills and the amount of her paycheck as she wrote out checks each month, giving Demery her first lessons in budgeting and finance. When she was a teenager, she traveled to Newport News, Virginia, in the summer to work in a daycare owned by her aunt. She says the experience taught her about business management and what it takes to be in charge.

Though times were tough financially for

her family, Demery says giving back was very important to her mother. "I watched her juggle so many tasks to make things better for us, and she still contributed to the community," she says. "Perseverance was something I learned from her, and it has certainly helped in my 28 years with the city."

Demery began working for the city of Greenville in 1988 as a senior accountant and was promoted to financial director and CFO in 1989. She oversees the planning and day-to-day operations of the city's \$78.1 million budget. The department she manages comprises several offices including purchasing, payroll, collections, investments and the Minority Women/Business Enterprise Program, a joint venture between the city and Greenville Utilities Commission to provide minority- and women-owned businesses equal opportunity to do business with government.

The success of Demery's leadership with the city can be measured by the numerous recognitions the finance department has received over the years, including the award for Excellence in Financial Reporting, which it has received for 26 consecutive years. She has held positions in professional and community organizations including the board of directors for the North Carolina Association of Certified Public Accountants and is treasurer of the Pitt/Greenville Convention and Visitors Authority.

She credits the accomplishments to hard work and the team that works beside her, many of whom came from ECU's College of Business. Her colleagues attribute her success not only to savvy accounting and business skills but also to the environment she creates that encourages outstanding performance.

Denisha Harris '02 '05 began working in the finance department as an intern 10 years ago. She is now the purchasing manager for the city and says Demery's management style has filtered through to other supervisors within the department, making it a great place to work.

"She cares about the whole person—our families and our dreams. She supports your goals and provides the resources we need to become better," says Harris.



Guiding and inspiring

Sometimes referred to as the mother hen of the office, Demery values relationships and encourages her young managers to develop long-standing relationships locally.

"I try to lift up the next generation. I want them to rise to the challenge and never settle for mediocre," she says.

As a successful and respected leader in the community, Demery uses her professional success and life experience to help motivate and encourage young people. She is known to teach classes to youth, especially girls, on basic finances, how to open a bank account and the importance of giving back. She has passed on these skills to her two adult daughters, Requita and Bridget.

"They are both very conscious of being independent and making sure they are contributing to the community," says Demery.

Her drive to help others often finds her with the youth who attend Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, where she and her husband of 32 years,

Ricky, have been members since 1988. After serving on the church's finance committee for 17 years, she has found her way back to working with the youth of the congregation. She strives to be someone they can look up to and aspire to become.

Though Demery's own children are grown, it is not unusual to see several teenagers in her home or a few kids piled into her car for a quick trip to the beach. "It's important for kids in eastern North Carolina to be exposed to other types of cultural activities and to see the ocean. I think it opens their minds to think about the endless possibilities of the world," says Demery.

During visits to her home or to local parks, she tries to keep things casual and fun. She wants the children and teenagers she works with to see her as an everyday person. "All they have to do is make a little progress toward what they want to do in the future. They can choose to do wrong or right—if they do the right thing it will get them a lot further," says Demery.

In 2012, she co-founded the East Carolina Ivy Foundation with other members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority alumni group. The foundation creates programs and supports partnerships that boost education, culture and healthy living. This year, it is awarding nine scholarships to high school graduates to attend the college of their choice.

According to her friend and fellow church member Julius Parham, Demery is a doer—the grace and love that is the center of her faith are shown in her actions and attitude. Her excitement is contagious, he said.

"She grabs the kids' attention and motivates them by trying different things," he said, citing her recent plan to take the youth on a trip

to the beach for a Bible study as an example of her willingness to keep them engaged.

Demery tries to be the support, direction and balance they may need in their lives.

"I want them to believe in themselves," she says.

Perseverance

After studying accounting at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in Greensboro on a full academic scholarship, she ended up in Greenville, she says, because the city was bigger than Halifax but not too big. She learned during an undergraduate internship in Chicago that her dream of living in a big city and being away from her family wasn't as glamorous as she imagined. During her time in the Windy City, her grandfather died. When she couldn't make it back for the funeral due to work, her family understood.

"That wasn't OK with me," Demery says. So she vowed to never be that far from family again.

The perseverance exemplified by her mother came in handy when she decided to return to school in 2000 to pursue her MBA. She took on the task while serving as Greenville's CFO, raising two young daughters and continuing her community obligations.

Paul Russell, director of graduate studies for ECU's College of Business, says the MBA program is designed to be as flexible as possible because the majority of their students juggle the demands of work and family while pursuing their degree.

"Students can choose between online and on-campus courses. On-campus courses that are taught in the afternoon during the fall semester are taught at night in the spring to give local students the ability to take courses around their schedule," says Russell.

Demery says the biggest challenge for her was attending the night meetings, but professors worked with her and understood her individual situation.

"The first year I was there I realized I was in

pretty deep—that it was going to be a hard program. The second year I wanted to quit. It was a lot, but my husband encouraged me," says Demery. Looking back on the experience, Demery believes her MBA makes her a better manager for Greenville.

"I think obtaining an MBA helped me be more aware of business activities, how to run diverse types of businesses and the impact of a diverse culture. The city is a very complex business enterprise within itself and I do believe (the MBA) has enhanced my skills," says Demery.

ECU's College of Business, like so many people, has benefited from her desire to help. Since finishing her MBA in 2002, Demery continues to serve on the school's Business Advisory Council. She touts the experience she had as a student and continues to have as an alumna as a reason for others to attend ECU.

"ECU is more than a university; it's a family with a connection you will have for the rest of your life," she says.

ECU honored her last year when she was selected as one of the university's Women of Distinction. The award is given to women for their leadership and impact at ECU and in the community.

The Pirate pride was passed down to her daughter Requita, who attended ECU as an undergraduate and is now in her fourth year at the Brody School of Medicine. Her youngest daughter, Bridget, followed in her mother's footsteps and is studying accounting at NC A&T.

Though she has a few years before retirement, Demery is always thinking about what's next. She is clear with anyone who asks that sitting around and doing nothing isn't her style.

"Too many people have made sacrifices for me to have the opportunities I've had over my life. I have to continue to give back in some way," she says.

Demery believes God has brought her through seasons in life and, with a smile, says that working for the city is not her final season.

Changing Lives, Changing Communities

Discovery

Donor Spotlight

The Wooten family, with the support of Dr. Harriet Wooten and her son, Dr. Lamont Wooten, has donated more than \$350,000 to the Wooten Laboratory at ECU since 2008 and more than \$400,000 since 2004.

For information on giving to the Wooten Lab or other medical research at ECU, call 252-744-6265, email brownka@ecu.edu or visit www.ecu.edu/give.

ecu.edu/give

Qun Lu talks about his lab's Alzheimer's research at go.ecu.edu/ab50d6cf.

Qun Lu

Position: Professor of anatomy and cell biology and director of the Harriet and John Wooten Laboratory for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases Research, Brody School of Medicine at ECU

Searching for a cure

"It is now estimated that half of the people living to age 80 to 85 will develop either Alzheimer's

disease or frontotemporal dementia. We are looking at how novel and innovative small-molecule drugs can modify the way nerve cells communicate to each other so that we may one day protect people from developing AD or suppress AD progression."

A costly disease

"Because the diseases can run a long time—eight to 10 years—and

require increasing individual care, the cost of care is tremendous compared with cancer or heart disease. The pharmaceutical pipelines rely on us scientists to produce enough viable leads to be developed into the drugs that can treat AD patients successfully."

Private funding supports research

"Our research has been supported by both public and private funding. However, as federal

and state budgets have become really tight, private funding and philanthropy increasingly play important roles in AD research nationwide. We accomplished a lot with the much smaller budget. But as we move forward, it would significantly speed up our drug discovery and development if we have a much larger funding base. We cannot do it without funding. We will need everyone's involvement and support."



All photos, Cliff Hollis

Coffield talks about her Access Scholarship at go.ecu.edu/79e6ffa1.



Gail Herring

Kelsey Coffield

Women's Roundtable supports vital scholarships

Kelsey Coffield '15, a graduate student at East Carolina University, wants to be a licensed mental health and substance abuse counselor. However, she says she never would have made it to this point had it not been for the Access Scholarship she received as an undergraduate.

"I received the letter (Access Scholarship Award), literally had a freak-out in my car and called my mom," she recalled recently. "We were both really emotional. It was a huge weight lifted off of our shoulders.... It made my dream of going to college a reality."

To help students such as Coffield, the Women's Roundtable at ECU is hosting the fifth edition of its Incredible ECU Women series. The event honors 11 women who went to ECU and serves as a fundraiser for the WRT's Access and Honors College endowments. The Honors Scholarship is awarded to academically talented students with strong character, and the Access Scholarship is awarded to North Carolina residents who are in financial need, have excellent academics and show community leadership.

"The end cause is that we're raising money for scholarships and creating a better life and an opportunity for someone to get a college education that otherwise

would not have that opportunity," said Gail Herring '80, a senior vice president with First Citizens Bank in southeastern North Carolina and chair of the Women's Roundtable.

The WRT helps its scholarship recipients network and be mentored by its members.

"Any young female graduating from East Carolina, really any student, could look to any of these women in what they have accomplished and see them as a role model," Herring said.

Here are this year's honorees:

Karen Evans '80 came to ECU to be a nurse. Now she is an attorney and partner in a law firm. She still helps patients but in a different way: by representing victims of medical malpractice.

Cathy Thomas '79 '86 has spent her career getting people to eat right and exercise. One of her projects, "Color Me Healthy," has become an international model for teaching young children how to eat properly and be physically active.

Mary Chatman '90 '96 '12 started working as a nursing assistant while she went to ECU to become a nurse. She now has her doctorate and is an executive with Memorial Health System in Savannah, Georgia.

Charlene Bregier '82 is an artist whose work has been shown all over the state. She says she hopes to inspire students to realize their greatest potential.

Angela Allen '81 graduated from ECU with a computer science degree and went on to work for and become an executive at IBM. She has a master's degree from Harvard Business School.

Alta Andrews '74 was a mother while going to school to get her master's as well as her doctorate. She's helped educate thousands of young nurses.

Paulina Hill '04 was the captain of the tennis team while at ECU and a quadruple major in biochemistry, neuroscience, biology and chemistry. She graduated magna cum laude, and did her postdoctoral fellowship in the chemical engineering department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Annette Peery '96 logs hundreds of hours a year as a volunteer. She is the associate dean of the undergraduate programs in the College of Nursing.

Linda Thomas '81 spent more than 33 years with Duke Energy. By volunteering to move into a new position, she landed on a management path, retiring as director of human resources

business partners. She also started the Business Woman's Network for Duke Energy Employees with eight chapters across the U.S. and Canada.

Jamie Sigler '01 and **Sarah Evans** '01 formed a successful public relations company that has three U.S. offices and one in London to serve clients from around the world. Their company, J Public Relations, was named 2015 Small PR Firm of the Year by PR News.

The Women's Roundtable 2016 Incredible Women Series event will be Oct. 13 at the Greenville Convention Center. The impact of scholarships as told through student stories will highlight the luncheon, which begins at 11 a.m.

"We're looking for investors; people who want to invest in other people's lives to give them an opportunity for an education and an opportunity to be successful in life," Herring said. "Even if you can just give a little bit, when we all put it together, it's going to grow our fund."

Tickets are on sale now for the event. Individual tickets cost \$100, and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Ticket information and more are at www.ecu.edu/incrediblewomen.

—Rich Klindworth

We believed

After a tough loss, the 1991 Pirates reeled off 11 straight wins in ECU's most memorable football season



BY SPAINE STEPHENS



From the start, ECU tight end Luke Fisher had an inkling.

“I always knew we were going to win the game; I was positive the entire game, especially in the fourth quarter,” he says.

The Pirates trailed, the final minutes ticking away. Then with a catch, a run and a dive, Fisher sealed his and his team’s place in Pirate lore.

Pirate fans erupted. They hugged and high-fived. They rocked the weathered Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. It was Jan. 1, 1992, at the 24th annual Peach Bowl. Fisher had caught a 22-yard pass from quarterback Jeff Blake to put East Carolina ahead of North

Carolina State for good. In a comeback that perfectly punctuated that 1991 “Cinderella season,” ECU made up a 34-17 deficit in the fourth quarter to win 37-34.

The Pirates went 11-1 that season, and 25 years later, those days live on.

“The team epitomized what East Carolina University has always been about,” says Mark Hessert, associate executive director of the ECU Educational Foundation (Pirate Club) and associate athletic director, whose career at ECU began in the fall of ’91. “That season encapsulated the spirit and passion ECU has for overachieving and gaining respect. It showed that, given the opportunity, we do rise to the occasion.”

‘We believe’

Having the chance to square off against an in-state rival in a bowl game wasn’t something that occurred to anyone who wore purple and gold at the start of the 1991 football season.

After a controversial loss at Illinois—ECU was penalized for excessive celebration after recovering an onside kick in the final minutes of a close game—no one could have guessed ECU would win out.

“To win 11 games in a row is so hard to do,” says Robert Jones, an All-America linebacker for the ’91 team whose son, Isaiah, plays for the current Pirate squad. “That’s also why that season was so magical.”

Time and again, the team snatched victory from teams including Syracuse, South Carolina, Virginia Tech and Pittsburgh. The Pitt game ended in a 24-23 home win that to many was a defining moment of the regular season.

“I’m getting chills just thinking about it,” says Dean Browder ’77. “Nobody sat down for the second half, and the concrete stands were bouncing.”

The team, led by Bill Lewis, the 1991 American Football Coaches Association Coach of the Year, offensive coordinator (and future head coach) Steve Logan, and quarterback Jeff Blake, made the magic happen game after game.

“I knew if I played at a high level, everyone else would,” Blake says. “I wouldn’t have been able to do it without my teammates and coaches and the support we had. They allowed me to be a leader.”

Fisher also recalls the support that kept the team motivated and confident.

“The fans were just unbelievable,” he says.

Brian Bailey saw that devotion firsthand. As a young sportscaster for WNCT-TV in Greenville, he was only a few years older than the players and bonded with them that season. He knew the team had a chip on its shoulder, that Pirate football had not been to a bowl since 1978 (a 35-13 win over Louisiana Tech in the Independence Bowl) and hadn’t come close to a bowl invitation since the ’83 season. The team’s independent status didn’t help when it came to bowl bids, either.

“After the wins started coming in, some of the players joked with me about going to a bowl,” Bailey says. “I told them that if they went to a bowl, they could shave my mustache. That ’stache was 11 years in the making, but some of the guys seemed to like the idea.”

As the wins piled up, “I Believe” and “We Believe” began popping up on T-shirts and signs that waved during games. The “We Believe” chant gave rise not only to a stadium cheer, but a team motto, a verbalization of how the Pirate Nation caught fire that season.

“We looked for the ‘We Believe’ every game,” Jones says.

Fans, in turn, looked for the pivotal play that would change the tide in each game. They were never disappointed.

“It was a fun year,” says Rod Gray ’94, who performed as the PeeDee mascot that season. “I’ve never been a part of something so exciting. It took our football program from infancy to more maturity. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

The game-changers

Some say it was fitting that the heady game days of that season yielded an even more energizing reward—a spot in a bowl opposite an in-state foe.

“It was almost fate for us to play N.C. State,” Fisher says. “It was the icing on the cake.”

The Pirates were 10-1 and ranked 12th in the Associated Press poll. The Wolfpack was 9-2 and ranked 21st.

WRAL-TV’s Jeff Gravley was on the sidelines during the Peach Bowl. He recalls the history that created tension between ECU and N.C. State.

“For years the N.C. State-ECU game was one of the most anticipated on the schedule,” Gravley says. “Both schools understood the high stakes of the rivalry, but the game was always played in Raleigh. After the Pirates’ 32-14 win in 1987, fans stormed the field, creating chaos. I didn’t cover that game, but vividly remember the field-level video.”

A fence and both goal posts were torn down, and a security officer suffered cheekbone and eye injuries from someone who was not connected to either school. Afterward, N.C. State canceled the series.

The Peach Bowl would be the teams’ first meeting since.

ECU’s success and the opponent created a double-edged sword for Pirate athletics staff. ECU fans ordered around 35,000 tickets, but the university’s allotment was closer to 20,000. Hessert remembers late nights spent agonizing over how to dole out the tickets.

“That was not fun,” he says. “It was a pretty stressful time.”

So many were headed to the Peach Bowl that a joke rippled among fans of both teams: “Last one out of North Carolina, turn out the lights!”

With a bowl-record crowd of 59,322, those who were there felt like all of North Carolina really had joined them in the stands.

“It was a hot ticket,” says Browder, who was the president of the Winston-Salem chapter of the Pirate Club and brought a bus full of fans to the game. “Emotions were high on both sides. Everyone was keyed up to play. It was like lightning in a bottle.”

Dennis Young, who was beginning his stint as executive director of the Pirate Club, remembers a cold, gray day in Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, with a clammy haze rolling over the field. As the game ground on, the Pirates found themselves down by three scores in the fourth quarter.

“I remember thinking, ‘I can’t believe it’s going to come to this,’” says Jerry Leach ’83, who was perched in the top corner of the stands.

But the Pirates weren’t dead. A touchdown near the six-minute mark pulled them within 10 points. Another made it 34-30 with just over three minutes left, but Blake fumbled on a two-point conversion attempt.

Many who were there remember the eerie sound of fans taking a collective breath and then shouting “We Believe!” in unison, over and over.

“All you could hear was ‘We Believe!’” Leach says. “I think the State fans were in shock.”

N.C. State punted on its next possession, and the Pirates stormed back down the field, even surviving a dropped catch thanks to a recovery by running back Cedric Van Buren.

Fisher recalls the go-ahead touchdown.

“This was a two-minute spread offense; I was split out on the right side,” he says. “When the ball was snapped, they didn’t blitz but dropped back into more of a zone coverage.



In the final play of the game, Pirate defensive lineman Greg Gardill, bottom left, tries to push the Wolfpack offensive line back as far as possible so that defensive players, including Robert Jones, center, can attempt to block the field goal attempt. The kick went wide.

“Because we had so many receivers out in the play it really spread the underneath coverage thin and, because of my option route (the opportunity to move to an opening), I found an open pocket.

“I ran 12 yards deep, made an inside turn and then slid out to the sideline. Jeff placed the ball perfectly on my outside shoulder, which allowed me to catch while turning on the run. This gave me the momentum to get up the field and over the end zone before a defender could reach me.”

Christin Simpson '93 '95 '01 was an ECU cheerleader that season. “I distinctly remember the crowd going crazy and the team barely able to contain themselves,” she says.

But there was time left, and the Wolfpack drove into ECU territory to set up a 49-yard field goal attempt to tie.

Pirate defensive lineman Greg Gardill describes what happened next.

“What we do is three defensive linemen get on the center and try to push the line back as far as possible so that the two linebackers can jump up and knock the ball down on the kick,” Gardill says. “So we pushed the line back, and I just thought, ‘Get as low

as you can and drive as hard as you can and push the center back and let the two linebackers jump up and hopefully we block this thing.’

“Well, instead of blocking it, it went wide right, and (the) stadium, at least three-quarters of it, went crazy,” he says. “The other people were not so happy.”

Gravley says the momentum swings created an electric atmosphere.

“It’s still one of the greatest games I have ever covered between two bitter rivals who had to go out of their home state to play,” he says.

At one point, birds—pigeons or doves, depending on whom you ask—flew over the stadium and settled onto the field, close to the action. They reminded some of the fighting spirit of the late Chancellor Leo Jenkins and the late head coach Clarence Stasavich, Young says.

“When you’re down by 17, some teams get down on themselves and don’t play to their potential,” Jones says. “For us, we were so accustomed to being down that we adapted and just kept playing. We learned how to overcome adversity.”

A lasting impression

Blake, Fisher, Jones, defensive back Chris Hall and wide receiver Dion Johnson would be drafted into the NFL. ECU would earn the respect it had sought statewide and beyond. The team finished the season ranked ninth nationally.

“It was the season that put ECU on the map,” Blake says. “That season was the catalyst for what Pirate football is today.”

The 1983 squad, with only three close losses to powerful teams, had been heralded as one of the greatest in school history (and don’t forget the undefeated 1941 team), but the 1991 team surpassed it. The win even helped breathe new life into the Peach Bowl itself with a sold-out crowd and a renewed excitement for the annual contest.

“The Pirates have had great seasons since, but none have been close to what that 1991 team did,” says Bailey, who lost his mustache that week, is still with WNCT-TV and calls the Peach Bowl the highlight of his career. “I hope to see the day that East Carolina has an even better football season, but we should never forget what this team accomplished.”

Among Pirate faithful, few games have approached the level of determination, triumph and pride of the '92 Peach Bowl.

“The win over Miami in 1999 was the closest emotionally to that '91 season because of everything eastern North Carolina had been through,” Hessert says, referring to the Pirates’ game played on N.C. State’s field in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

The season not only defined a fan base but also attested to ECU’s ability to fight and prevail.

“It really paralleled life,” says Richard Allsbrook '91 '02, who attended the game with his future father-in-law. “When you’re down and out, there’s always a chance to make a comeback. Part of being a Pirate is having that underdog role, having a chip on your shoulder. We don’t want people to give us anything; we want to work for it. That makes us appreciate it even more.”

—Rich Klindworth contributed to this story.

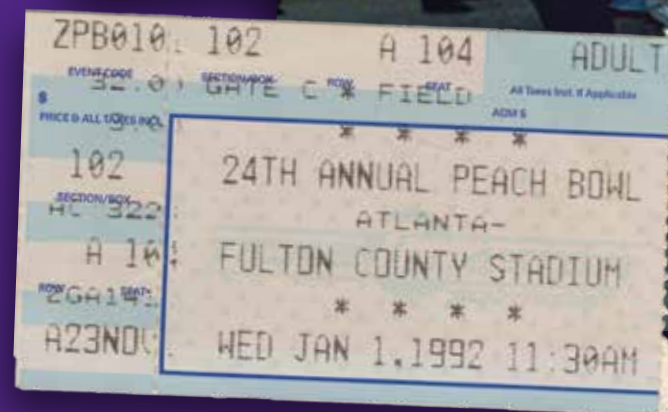


Richard Allsbrook '91 '02 stands in the room in his home that is dedicated to Pirate and Peach Bowl memorabilia.

1991 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

At Illinois	L	31-38
Memphis State	W	20-13
At Central Florida	W	47-25
South Carolina	W	31-20
Akron	W	56-20
At Syracuse	W	23-20
Pittsburgh	W	24-23
Tulane	W	38-28
At Southern Miss	W	48-20
At Virginia Tech	W	24-17
At Cincinnati	W	30-19
N.C. State	W	37-34

Visit www.ecu.edu/mktg/east for more fan recollections of the 1991 season and the Peach Bowl.



Greg Gardill and his family talk about the Peach Bowl at go.ecu.edu/112762b0.



Homecoming 2016

OCTOBER 28

Alumni Awards Ceremony and Dinner

5:30 p.m., Greenville Convention Center
Join us as we present the 2016 Virgil Clark '50 Distinguished Service Award, Honorary Alumni Award and Outstanding Alumni Awards at the East Carolina Alumni Association's signature event. See pages 46-47 for recipients. All alumni and friends and their guests are welcome; advance registration is required. Sponsorships are sought. To become a sponsor or for general information, contact Shawn Moore '91 '98, director of scholarships and signature programs, at 252-328-5775 or mooreash@ecu.edu. More information is available at www.PirateAlumni.com/2016AwardsCeremony.

OCTOBER 29

Homecoming Parade

9 a.m., Fifth Street
Join us at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center and get a great seat to watch the Homecoming Parade. See PeeDee, the Marching Pirates and other local bands, ECU cheerleaders, student organization floats, the 2016 Homecoming Court and Alumni Award recipients.

Buccaneer Buffet

Three hours before kickoff, ECU soccer stadium
Gather with fellow Pirates for a buffet meal by Aramark, Abrams and GK Cafe. Enjoy beverages, live music and entertainment, door prizes and more. Buccaneer Buffet is open to all friends and fans of East Carolina. New this year, members of the alumni association can enter a half-hour early (3.5 hours before kickoff). See page 50 for pricing.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Homecoming Canned Food Drive

Oct. 27, noon-3 p.m.
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina
Contact: homecoming@ecu.edu or 252-737-1808

Homecoming Concert

Performer TBA at ecu.edu/homecoming
Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
Minges Coliseum
Contact: barrowd14@ecu.edu or 252-328-4738

Homecoming Pep Rally at Freeboot Friday

Oct. 28, 5-8 p.m.
Five Points Plaza, Uptown Greenville
Free
Contact: homecoming@ecu.edu or 252-737-1808

Dowdy Student Stores

The "Go for the Gold" homecoming celebration will be Oct. 26-29 at ECU Dowdy Student Stores on campus with savings throughout the store. Alumni, show us your class ring and save a percentage for each year since graduation, up to 30 percent off for class of '86 and beyond. Come in before or after the parade for special activities, giveaways for kids and door prize drawing on Saturday. More information is at www.studentstores.ecu.edu or email studentstores@ecu.edu or call 252-328-6731 or 877-499-8398.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNIONS

Black Alumni Reunion

The Black Alumni Chapter of the East Carolina Alumni Association presents the 2016 Black Alumni Reunion. The BAC is composed of alumni and friends who advocate for the mission of the university and alumni association. In addition to a reunion every year, the BAC enhances access to and attainment of education for African-American students by raising funds for scholarships and providing networking opportunities with alumni. The host hotel is the Holiday Inn Express at 909 Moye Blvd. For hotel block details and more information, visit PirateAlumni.com/2016BAR.

OCTOBER 28

BAC Golf Outing

Ironwood Golf and Country Club, 8 a.m., \$50

Join us for serious but friendly golf competition. Spots are limited. Pre-registration only; no registration on site. Proceeds will be donated to the Laura Leary Elliott Endowed Scholarship.

Reunion Information Desk

Holiday Inn Express, 4-6 p.m.
One-stop shop for information about all Black Alumni Reunion events.

Mixer: The "Arrrgh" Meet and Greet

Hilton Greenville, 207 Greenville Blvd. SE, 8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Socialize, network and reconnect with fellow Pirates. Cash bar and food will be available.

OCTOBER 29

BAC Business Meeting

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, 7:30 a.m.

Before the parade, join in the discussion about how to further the BAC and its initiatives, including scholarships, growing membership and upcoming events.

Homecoming Parade

Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center, 9 a.m.

Cheer on members of the BAC as they ride by in a convertible.

ECU vs. Connecticut Football Game

Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium
The BAC will have a block of seats to cheer coach Mo and the Pirates on to victory. Block ticket purchase details will be available at PirateAlumni.com/2016BAR.

BAC Awards Banquet and Gala

Pirates Partying with a Purpose! Hilton Greenville, 6 p.m.-1 a.m.
Dinner and gala: \$40 for members, \$50 for non-members
Gala only: \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members

Join us as we honor the recipients of the second Laura Leary Elliott Endowed Scholarship and recognize the recipients of the Dr. Andrew Best Trailblazer Award, the Laura Marie Elliott Courageous Leader

Award and the Ledonia S. Wright Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award. The evening will begin with a cocktail reception at 6 p.m. and the awards dinner at 7 p.m. followed by a festive gala with music that spans the decades. Attire is business professional. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Laura Leary Elliott Endowed Scholarship.

OCTOBER 30

Ecumenical Service

Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms, 9-11 a.m.

Join fellow Pirates to hear an uplifting message from alumnus the Rev. William Davis.

Brunch

Golden Corral, 504 SW Greenville Blvd., 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Cost: on your own
Add the finishing touch to the Black Alumni Reunion.

Marching Pirates Alumni Reunion

Join fellow former band members for a weekend of fun, music and football. Reminisce with old friends and make new ones as you join the band on the field and in the stands.

The reunion fee is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. Football tickets are \$25 each and are NOT included in the reunion fee. A block of seats will be reserved in the Boneyard



behind the marching band. Football block purchase details will be available at PirateAlumni.com/2016MPReunion.

Marching Pirate polo shirts (required for the performance) are \$18. The polo shirts are the same as last year. Depending on the game time, lunch will be served before the game or during halftime.

The host hotel is the Holiday Inn Express at 909 Moye Blvd. For hotel block details and more information, check PirateAlumni.com/2016MPReunion. The full schedule will be available once kickoff time is announced.

OCTOBER 28

Open rehearsal

College Hill Field, 4-6 p.m.

OCTOBER 29

Alumni breakfast

Five hours before kickoff

Alumni band rehearsal

College Hill Field, four hours before kickoff

Marching band rehearsal

College Hill Field, three hours before kickoff

Combined band rehearsal

College Hill Field, two hours before kickoff

March to stadium

1 hour, 45 minutes before kickoff

Pregame performance

20 minutes before kickoff

Connecticut vs. ECU Football Game

Time TBD



Department of Biology*Homecoming Nerd Nite*

Oct. 28, 5:30 p.m.

Location TBA

Free; no RSVP required

Contact: Jennifer Jacobs at Jacobsje15@ecu.edu**College of Business***Homecoming social*

Oct. 29, 8:45 a.m.

On the lawn between Chancellor's Way and Fifth Street

Free, no RSVP required

Contact: Vickie Glover-Gurganus, gloverg@ecu.edu or 252-328-6628**College of Allied Health Sciences**

Oct. 28, 6-9 p.m.

Health Sciences Building lobby; 2150 E. Fifth St.

Free; RSVP by Sept. 15

Contact: Diane Apetsi, 252-744-6010

Department of Chemistry*Homecoming festivities*

Oct. 28, 5-8 p.m.

Science and Technology Building third-floor atrium
Cost TBA, RSVP by Oct. 14Contact: Roshona Blackmon, 252-328-9704 or blackmonr@ecu.edu**Department of Criminal Justice***Alumni tailgate*

Oct. 29, 10 a.m.

Rivers Building lawn (Fifth Street side;

parking in adjacent west lot)

Free; no RSVP required

Contact: Sandra Barfield, barfieldsa15@ecu.edu or 252-328-4192**School of Dental Medicine***Continuing education event*

Oct. 29, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Ross Hall, 1851 MacGregor Downs Road

Cost and RSVP deadline TBA

Contact: Dr. JoAnne Murray, 252-737-7074

College of Education*Breakfast on the porch*

Oct. 29, 8:30 a.m.

Speight Building

Free; RSVP by Oct. 21

Contact: COEoutreach@ecu.edu**College of Engineering and Technology***Alumni breakfast*

Oct. 29, 8 a.m.

Science and Technology Building first-floor atrium

Free; no RSVP required

Contact: Margaret Turner, turnerm@ecu.edu**College of Fine Arts and Communication***Homecoming tailgate in conjunction**with Pirate Radio 1250 and 930*

Oct. 29, time TBA

Elmhurst School across from

Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium

Alumni, family and friends of the School of Art

and Design, School of Communication, School

of Music and School of Theatre and Dance are

invited to visit with the dean of the college and

directors of the schools.

Free; RSVP requested

Contact: Mary Jane Gaddis, 252-328-1268 or

gaddism@ecu.edu**College of Health and Human Performance**

Oct. 29, 8 a.m.

Tent in front of Rivers Building

Free; no RSVP required

Contact: Jerrika Alston, alstonje14@ecu.edu**Career Services and Parents Services***Homecoming Parade Yard Party*

Oct. 29, 9 a.m.

Career Services House, 701 E. Fifth St.

Cost and RSVP deadline TBA

Contact: Karen Franklin, 252-328-6050

ALS/Joyner Library*Music Library open house*

Oct. 28, all day floating

Music Library

Free, no RSVP required

Contact: Heather White, whiteh@ecu.edu,

252-328-2870

College of Nursing*Homecoming reception*

Oct. 28, 5:30-8 p.m.

College of Nursing building front lobby

Free; RSVP by Oct. 14

Contact: Jane Boardman, boardmanj@ecu.edu

or 252-744-6504

Department of Nutrition Science*Homecoming parade reception with GO-Science*

Oct. 29, noon

GO-Science, 729 Dickinson Ave., Greenville

Enjoy center exhibits, demonstrations by the

Student Dietetic Association and free food

Free; RSVP by Oct. 26 (space is limited)

Contact: Susan Howard, howards@ecu.edu**Religious Studies Program***Alumni and friends pre-game get-together*

Oct. 29, starting two hours before the game

Derek Maher's house, 1021 E. Wright Road,

Greenville

Free, RSVP by Oct. 21

Contact: Lee Johnson, johnsonle@ecu.edu or

252-737-4305

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences*Homecoming breakfast*

Celebrating classes of '66, '76, '86, '96 and '06

Oct. 29, 8 a.m.

On the lawn outside Whichard

Free; no RSVP required

Contact: Lauren Morrison, 252-328-6249 or

morrisonl14@ecu.edu**Greek Events***NPHC Step Show*

Oct. 28, time TBD

Location TBD

Cost TBD

Contact ECU Greek Life at 252-328-4235

Sigma Sigma Sigma

Brunch and parade viewing

Oct. 29, 8 a.m.

See invitation for more information

MARK THE DATE**Brody School of Medicine Reunion Weekend**
Sept. 9-10

Lunch with the dean, campus tour, reunion

dinner and alumni tailgate

Contact: Chris Bridgers at

bridgersc16@ecu.edu or 252-744-2029**VIRGIL CLARK '50
DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE ALUMNUS**

Dr. Douglas Privette '72 is a member of the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation board of directors. Since joining the board in 2011, he has served on several committees including investment, engagement, and development and donor relations. He travels throughout the state to meet with alumni and gain support for professorships, endowments and scholarships. He and his wife, Terry, set up a scholarship in the Brody School of Medicine and have included the school in their estate plan. He served as the director of regional development for the East Carolina Heart Institute from 2009 to 2015. He spent more than 25 years as a cardiologist in eastern North Carolina. As one of the first students in the ECU School of Medicine, later to become the Brody School of Medicine, he attended for one year before transferring to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to get his medical degree there, as was the standard at the time. He completed his bachelor's degree at ECU in biology. He received the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Brody School of Medicine Alumni Society. Previously, he served as president of the ECU Medical Alumni Society from 1984 to 1986. The Privettes live in Greenville and have three children and seven grandchildren.

HONORARY ALUMNUS

John Bray founded A Time for Science learning center in Grifton with his wife, Nancy, after a long career as a scientist, professor and pharmaceutical executive. Started in 2009, the center provides outdoor recreation as well as science and environmental education to children and families of Pitt and surrounding counties. The center is just one of the many ways the Brays support the environment and the community along with their support of a variety of programs and scholarships at ECU and PCC and the conservation of hundreds of acres of woodlands and croplands. Bray is a co-founder of Metrics, holding several positions from 1994 to 2012. From 1978 to 1994, Bray conducted trace element chemistry research at ECU's medical school. Before that, he worked at an environmental consulting firm in Maryland. He earned his bachelor of science degree in chemistry in 1967 from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind. He also earned a master of arts in chemical oceanography and a doctorate in geochemistry from Johns Hopkins University. He and Nancy live in Grifton. They have two sons.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Henry Hinton '76 is the founding president of Inner Banks Media, which owns and operates five FM radio stations in eastern North Carolina. He started the company in 2007 with his son and a colleague after owning another media company in eastern North Carolina. His career includes ownership and management in

radio and television in the Greenville, Raleigh and Chapel Hill markets. He has also worked in sports broadcasting including the Tar Heel Sports Network at UNC-Chapel Hill and the Pirate Sports Network at ECU. Hinton has long been the host of a popular morning radio and cable TV program, *Talk of the Town*, which airs on 103.7 WTIB and Cable 7. Hinton is a former chairman of the Greenville-Pitt Chamber of Commerce and a former president of the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters. He received the alumni association's Distinguished Service Award in 2000 and was named Greenville's Small Business Leader of the Year for 2002. He is a member of the UNC Board of Governors. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Greenville and have two children and two grandchildren.



Maj. Gen. Frederick Padilla '82 is the 15th president of National Defense University, the nation's premier joint military higher education institution. With more than 30 years in the Marine Corps, Padilla has served throughout the Middle East, Mediterranean and Pacific, including combat deployments in Somalia and Iraq. His prior positions include director of operations for plans, policies and operations, Headquarters Marine Corps, and commanding general of the Third Marine Division. After earning his bachelor's degree in geography from ECU, he went on to earn his master of arts in national security and strategic studies at the Naval War College. He also attended the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, Air Command and Staff College and Armed Forces Staff College. He is the recipient of numerous personal and unit awards and honors, including the Legion of Merit (with Combat V and two gold stars), a Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with oak leaf) and the Combat Action Ribbon (with gold star). He and

his wife, Cindy, live in Quantico, Virginia, and have six children.



Steve George Smith '73 is a former executive of Eveready Battery Co. He worked more than 37 years with EBC in various positions in the U.S., Indonesia and Kenya. He retired in 2011 as the CEO and managing director of Eveready East Africa Limited. As CEO, he oversaw manufacturing, finance, sales and marketing operations for EEAL, a \$20 million company publicly traded on the Nairobi Stock Exchange. While based in Kenya for 12 years, Smith was a leader in the business community, serving on the Kenya National Social Economic Council, Kenya National AIDS Control Council and National Olympic Committee of Kenya. He also held leadership positions in organizations such as Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Eastern Africa Association, American Chamber of Commerce of Kenya and Kenya Association of Manufacturers. In 1998, Smith worked with the U.S. ambassador and former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan to help resolve the 1998 Kenya Election Crisis. Smith started with Eveready in 1974 after earning a bachelor's degree in industrial technology from ECU. He serves as a commissioner for the town of Topsail Beach and as an advisory board member for Coastal Bank & Trust. He and his wife, Edna Cascioli Smith, live in Topsail Beach.



Cathy Thomas '79 '86 '88 is a branch manager for the N.C. Division of Public Health. In her extensive career in health education, she has served as a public health educator, classroom teacher, school health

coordinator, assistant principal and public health administrator. The branch she leads, Community and Clinical Connections for Prevention and Health, works to reduce obesity, diabetes, heart disease and stroke, making healthy living easier for all North Carolinians. Thomas has developed national award-winning health education programs including "Color Me Healthy" and "Eat Smart, Move More, Weigh Less." She was instrumental in the formation of "Eat Smart, Move More NC," a statewide movement that works to create a North Carolina where people can eat smart and move more wherever they live, learn, earn, play or pray. She is widely published in professional literature. She received the College of Health and Human Performance's Outstanding Alumni Award in 2015. She has a bachelor of science in school and community health education, a master of arts in health education and an educational supervision certification, all from ECU. She lives in Raleigh.

**2017 Alumni Award
nominations due Nov. 1**

The East Carolina Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the 2017 Alumni Awards through Nov. 1. Nominations consist of a one-page form and two letters of recommendation, along with the nominee's current resume. Anyone can nominate an ECU alumnus or supporter for an award. While surprise nominations are permitted, nominators are strongly encouraged to work directly with their nominees to ensure that all information submitted is complete and accurate. Recipients must be present at Homecoming 2017 to receive an award. Visit PirateAlumni.com/AwardsProcess for more information.



Adding to freshmen



"I wish I knew about all of the opportunities that are available to students my freshman year. Take advantage of every resource! Check out Mendenhall Student Center for events, activities and volunteer opportunities. One of my favorite memories from my time on campus was the annual Barefoot on the Mall. This was a great way to end the school year with fun and music surrounded by the beauty of campus and best friends."

Andrea Dowell '12, school and community health
Family and consumer science teacher, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools



"You need to always attend class. That's imperative. The one thing I didn't do and wish I had done was see my

teachers more during their office hours. The reason for that is two-fold. First and most obvious is that your professor can help you understand things much better in a one-on-one session. And second, a professor appreciates a student for taking an interest in their class. And frankly, that can make a big difference—maybe not necessarily in the grade you receive, but down the road for a reference, as a mentor."

Scott Cooper '86, communication
Regional Channel Manager, Time Warner Business Class/Charter Communications, Greensboro



"One of the things I wish I (had) known as a freshman is the importance of networking and being involved in organizations on campus. In my upperclassman years at ECU, I was heavily involved in organizations and community involvement, which enabled me to gain valuable skills that can be translated in the professional world. My experience at ECU prepared me for my career because it helped me to become a leader and stand out amongst my colleagues."

Aysia Robinson '13, criminal justice
Probation officer, N.C. Department of Public Safety



"Be engaged with the community at ECU. The college experience isn't just about going to class—that's just the foundation. My relationships that continued after college weren't born in a classroom. They came from my time as a student worker and a member of student organizations. That's where meaningful connections are made!"

Casey Ferguson '10, communication
Communications manager, VCU School of the Arts, Richmond, Va.



"I've been living abroad for seven years now (South Korea, Poland, China and Germany), and a lot of it is because I'm making up for never having studied abroad. The biggest advice I would give to students is get out there and explore the world. Traveling has made such a difference in my life, and I hope to inspire others."

Samantha Strube '07, history
Learning and development specialist at Trivago



"If I was to give the freshman me any advice, it would be don't get behind the 8-ball! There is a freedom and sense of entitlement that culture-slaps you in the face when you no longer have to answer to anyone, when you can make your own schedule and when you realize man, I have a lot of free time. I spent summers and my junior/senior year trying to make up for the hole I dug myself in as a freshman so I could graduate on time. Go to class, put forth the necessary effort to be successful—even the electives that have nothing to do with your major. Create study groups; you will form friends and bonds that will last a lifetime. Pirate to Pirate! ARRRGH!"

Lawrence Jackson '12, economics
Client relationship manager, KForce Professional Staffing, Charlotte

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A L U M N I V O I C E S

CLASS NOTES

2015

Justin Davis is business development coordinator for Nease Personnel, Greenville. He was director of business development for Rep Express Catering, Greenville. **Sally Thornton** is a design specialist at VF Corp.-Wrangler Division.

2014

Justin Smith joined Wells Fargo Home Mortgage in Greenville. He was a personal banker at Wells Fargo Bank, Snow Hill.

2012

Lauren Nancy Buchanan wed **Joseph Blake Crowder** '14 on April 23 at Phillips Chapel, Greensboro. The wedding party included **Brittney Leigh Bass**, **Jason Christopher Dolan**, **Jordan Spencer Smith** '11 and **Shade Allen Wooten III** '11. She

is office manager at Central Carolina Concrete and was a member of Chi Omega Sorority at ECU. He is a project engineer at Tru-Cast, Greensboro. He was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity at ECU. **Juan Castillo** is principal at Pactolus School, Greenville. He was assistant principal at Greene Central High School. **Ashley Lauren Stocks** wed **Barrie Alpheus Smith** '11 on Oct. 3 at 400 Saint Andrews, Greenville. The wedding party included **Laurie Smith** '14, sister of the groom, and **Lauren Starling** '11. She is a compliance and privacy professional at PORT Human Services. He is a revenue officer at the N.C. Department of Revenue.

2011

Scott Senatore is vice president of development for Vidant

Health, Greenville. He was president and CEO of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce.

2009

Vera Caralyne Attaway joined Lassiter & Sperati PLLC, Attorneys at Law, Rocky Mount. **Matt Johnston** is director of the Farmville recreation department.

2008

Ashley Beddard Cauley '08 '14 received licensure as a CPA in North Carolina. **Caroline Brown Gay** was promoted to associate vice president of analytics at Lakeland Regional Health System, Lakeland, Fla. **Robert Johnson** '08 '14 is principal at Eastern Elementary School, Greenville. He was assistant principal at Eastern. **Erin Kessel**, a fourth-grade teacher at

Creekside Elementary School, is the Winterville Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Teacher of the Year. She is also the Pitt County 2016 Teacher of the Year. **Nicole Reid**, nurse specialist in pediatrics at ECU Physicians, was a finalist for ECU Physicians 2016 Nurse of the Year.

2005



Timothy James Morgan was an honoree for the 2016 ECU 40 Under 40 Leadership Award. He is a risk advisor with Towne Insurance, Raleigh.

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BUCCANEER BUFFET 2016



Join fellow alumni and fans for tailgating fun before each home football game at ECU. Enjoy a variety of food from local restaurants, beverages, live music and entertainment, door prizes and more. Tailgates often get visits from the ECU cheerleaders and PeeDee. This year, each tailgate will feature a craft brewery. Held at Johnson Soccer Stadium, Buccaneer Buffet begins three hours before kickoff and lasts two hours. Tailgates are open to any friends and fans of East Carolina. This year, members of the alumni association can enter a half-hour early (3.5 hours before kickoff). For members of the alumni association, tickets are \$15 for ages 11 and up and \$5 for ages 3-10. For non-members, tickets are \$25 for ages 11 and up and \$10 for ages 3-10. Children 2 and under are free. Price includes food, beverages and entertainment. Tickets are

available on a first-come, first-served basis. Some tailgates sell out quickly, so plan to register in advance. Tickets are sold at the door only if space is available. For more information, visit PirateAlumni.com/tailgate or call 800-ECU-GRAD (252-328-4723).

Sept. 3 vs. Western Carolina
Crave, Aramark, Sweet Couple, Abita Purple Haze

Sept. 10 vs. N.C. State
GK Café, Aramark, Sandi's Creative Cakes, Campus Cookies, Sweetwater 420

Oct. 1 vs. UCF
Moore's Old Tyme Barbeque, Aramark, Campus Cookies, Carolina Brewery Sky Blue

Oct. 13 vs. Navy
Zoe's Kitchen, Aramark, Sweet Traditions, Catawba Brewing White Zombie

Oct. 29 vs. UConn
Abrams, Aramark, GK Café, Troegs Perpetual IPA

Nov. 12 vs. SMU
East Coast Wings & Grill, Aramark, Brown's Sweet Treats, White Street Kolsch

Many thanks to our Buccaneer Buffet season sponsors: A Wireless, Alpha Medias: BOB 93.3 & 95.1 WRNS, Aramark, Coca-Cola, Dowdy Student Stores, RA Jeffreys, Inner Banks Icehouse, Liberty Mutual, Shenandoah Graphics & Framing, WITN.

Away-game events
The alumni association is partnering with the Pirate Club to host various away-game activities this season. Details will be posted at PirateAlumni.com.

Sept. 17 Away-game Tailgate at USC

Oct. 7 Friday night social before the USF game Oct. 8.



Music by an East Carolina alumnus will be the soundtrack for a second Dolly Parton biopic later this year.

Emmy-winning composer Velton Ray Bunch '71 is the composer for *Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors: Circle of Love*.

He did the same job for last year's hit, *Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colors*. With more than 15 million viewers, it was the most-watched movie on broadcast or cable in nearly seven years, according to *Variety* magazine.

"I thought it would be successful, but I didn't know it would be that successful," Bunch said. "It's a warm, wholesome film, and you don't see much of that on TV anymore. But there's clearly a desire for it. I was very pleasantly surprised."

According to Bunch, the network's original plan was to make four different movies, each based on one of Parton's iconic songs, but the success of the first inspired a sequel.

Parton wrote a new song called "Circle of Love" just for the movie, Bunch said, and he will incorporate this song along with popular Christmas carols to create the musical backdrop for the movie.

Christmas of Many Colors will return to Parton's upbringing in the Great

Making music for Dolly

Smoky Mountains of east Tennessee. *Coat of Many Colors* depicted a true story from Parton's childhood, when her mother gave her a coat she had lovingly sewn from colorful rags, which inspired her 1971 hit of the same title.

In addition to composing background music to score the movie, Bunch created a new arrangement of Parton's song by taking her vocals from the original recording and backing them with a symphony orchestra instead of a guitar.

"It's a very interesting use of the song," Bunch said. "I think it turned out very well."

Bunch was offered the job with a call from Parton herself, who told him she was working with NBC to develop a series of movies based on her songs, and she wanted him to

write the music based on their previous work together.

"This came directly from Dolly," Bunch said. "I've known her many years, and I've handled music for her before. Still it was a nice surprise to hear from her since it had been a few years. I think she likes the fact that I'm from North Carolina and we had a similar upbringing."

Bunch always knew he wanted to write music for movies and TV. After graduating from ECU with a degree in music

composition and theory, he headed to Los Angeles.

He "did the requisite starving for a time," but eventually made his way into the business. He has composed music for several well-known TV shows including *Quantum Leap*, *Walker, Texas Ranger* and *JAG*. He won an Emmy in 2004 for his work on *Star Trek: Enterprise*. He also has three Emmy nominations.

While writing scores for TV shows and movies is different from composing classical symphonies, Bunch says his education at ECU prepared him well for his career.




"I learned a great deal at ECU and had fantastic teachers," he said. "It taught me a lot of being disciplined. I'm very proud I went to ECU."

—Jackie Drake



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Kathryn Elizabeth Odom wed John Jordan Betz on Feb. 27 at Immaculate Conception Church, Durham. The wedding party included **Kristen Ward Warren**. She is a physician assistant at Wake Spine and Pain, Cary.

2004

Jaimisson McPhail, nurse manager in internal medicine at ECU Physicians, was a finalist for ECU Physicians 2016 Nurse of the Year. **Stanley Melvin**, retired Pitt County Juvenile Detention director, received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for 37 years of state service. **Zulena Staton**, a school counselor at North Pitt High School, Greenville, is vice president for the N.C. School Counselor Association's Northeast Region.

2003

Karalee Coughlin is a mortgage lender with First South Bank, Greenville. **Barrett Cranford Edmondson** wed Sara Trent Colbert on May 21 at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Mount Pleasant, S.C. He is a project manager for Beazer

Homes in Mount Pleasant. **Kelly Blackmon Moran** is Robeson Community College Instructor of the Year, where she teaches nursing. Dr. **Michael Warren** is deputy commissioner for population health for the Tennessee Department of Health, Nashville. He was assistant commissioner for Family Health and Wellness in the department. **Chad Webb** was inducted into the SouthWest Edgecombe High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was the first NCHSAA boys golf champion for the school.

2002

Denise Garison is principal at Bluffton High School in South Carolina. She was principal of Jack Britt High, Fayetteville. **Brock Letchworth** is communications manager/public information officer for the city of Greenville. He was director of public information for Pitt County Schools. **Darryl Thomas Jr.** '02 '12 is principal at E.B. Aycock Middle School, Greenville. He was assistant principal at J.H. Rose High School.

2001

Marcellus "B2" Harris was elected vice mayor of Newport News, Va. He is an academic counselor and head football coach at Denbigh High. **Tim Locklair** is chief officer for academics and student support services for Moore County Schools. He was area superintendent of Western Wake County for Wake County Schools.

1997

Scott A. Coffey retired from the U.S. Army as an aviator and operations research/systems analyst. He is now regional logistics lead for Facebook at the Forest City Data Center.

1996

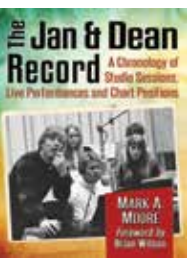
Dr. **Billy Ray Smith** '96 '00, owner of Eastern Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation in Greenville, is the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce 2015 Small Business Leader.

1992

Bill Ferrell, legal administrator of Colombo Kitchen Attorneys, Greenville, is president of

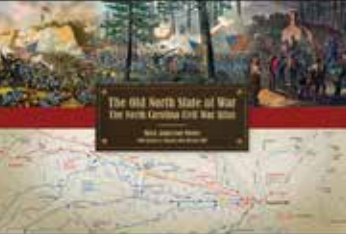
the Association of Legal Administrators, Raleigh-Durham Chapter. **Steffani Letchworth**, a certified nurse practitioner, joined the staff of Vidant Cardiology, Greenville.

1991



Mark Moore published *The Jan & Dean Record: A Chronology of Studio Sessions, Live Performances and Chart Positions*. He

also published *The Old North State at War: The North Carolina Civil War Atlas* through the N.C. Office of Archives and History.



continued on page 55



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75	5.8%	75/75	5.0%
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Greg Abeyounis, CFRE
Associate Vice Chancellor for Development
abeyounis@ecu.edu
252-328-9573



Kendra K. Alexander
Gift and Estate Planning Officer
alexanderk@ecu.edu
252-328-9566



Mark S. Hessert
Associate Executive Director of the Pirate Club
hessertm@ecu.edu
252-737-4543



Alumna snorkels the Arctic

Stephanie Gandulla '14 carries two business cards. One is for her day job, and the other is for the Sedna Epic Expedition, a multiyear project for which she and a group of women are traveling to the Canadian Arctic to raise awareness for climate change, connect with locals and snorkel more than 1,800 miles. Wait, what?

"We are going to attempt a snorkel relay of the Northwest Passage," Gandulla told Michael Wright of the *Bozeman* (Montana) *Daily Chronicle* earlier this year. Gandulla is the media coordinator for the project. They began July 23 in the province of Nunavut for the endeavor and snorkeled for about three weeks. They'll do it again for a month next summer and in 2018, thus completing the entire passage. The water temperature will be in the low 30s, Gandulla said, and she and her team will wear dry suits and other appropriate gear. Each stint in the water will be about two hours, and they'll use diver propulsion vehicles to assist them, she added. Along the way they will visit communities and take note of what they see underwater, including microplastics levels, wildlife and any shipwrecks. Gandulla is 43, a Bozeman native and a maritime archaeologist who now lives in

Alpena, Michigan. After studying English literature at Montana State University, she arrived at East Carolina University in 2008 to study maritime archaeology. After earning that degree, she took a job at Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, where she works in public outreach. Thunder Bay is home to about 200 shipwrecks left over from a couple of centuries of commercial shipping on the Great Lakes, and visitors come from around the world to see them. "Other sanctuaries have humpback whales that they protect, others have deep-sea canyons. We have shipwrecks," Gandulla said. A friend of hers was involved in the inception of the Sedna Epic Expedition, and when Gandulla noticed that they didn't have a maritime archaeologist on the

expedition yet, she threw her name into the mix. She knows the history of the area and how to use technology they need—such as underwater robots and mobile aquariums. The expedition is named after Sedna, the Inuit goddess of the sea and mother of all marine mammals, which hints at another purpose of their trip—inspiring and empowering young women. The overarching theme of the trip is to raise awareness for climate change. "The people up in the Arctic, their way of life is changing now, right in front of them with the disappearing sea ice," she said. That is also what makes their dream possible. Ships once tried to use the passage for exports and imports, but ice was in the way. That has changed.

"Now we are able to move through the water in the snorkel zone because of the disappearing sea ice," she said.

Gandulla credited her years at ECU with helping her get to this point.

"The hands-on, real-world experience I got at ECU has really prepared me not only for my career but also an expedition such as the Sedna expedition," she said.

Read more about the project at www.sednaepic.com and follow their progress on Twitter @sednaepic. Follow Gandulla on Twitter @sgandulla.

—Doug Boyd



1990

Cathy Kirkland '90 '04 is principal at Wintergreen Elementary School, Greenville. She was principal at Eastern Elementary School.

1989

Lane B. Mills is superintendent of Wilson County Schools. He was superintendent of Craven County Schools.

1986

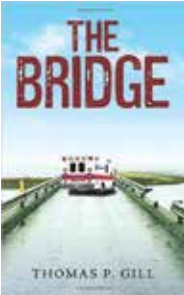
Connie Pritchard was promoted to vice president with the Jones Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, Greenville.

1985

Donald R. Payne Jr. '85 '87 joined MBL Advisors, Charlotte, as managing director. He was managing partner of Harris, Crouch, Long, Scott & Miller.

1981

Tom Gill '81 published *The Bridge*, a summer romance with tragedy, suspense and mystery set on the Crystal Coast of North Carolina. Based on actual events, it tells the story of a teenage girl who falls for a boy while staying with her grandparents for the summer. But a family tragedy, kept hidden for 15 years, wreaks havoc when it is revealed. *The Bridge* also speaks to the sacrifices military families make. It's available through Amazon and Create Space in paperback or Kindle and in area bookstores. A retired Air Force officer, Gill is married to **Alyson Gill** '82 and plans a sequel in the spring.



Zeta chapter in Chatham County. She also received an Educator Emeritus Award from Chatham County schools.

She writes: "My grandmother was also a teacher, and she also graduated from ECTC. Unfortunately, my grandmother died when she was 45 years old. Although I never knew her, she was one of the reasons that I was interested in attending East Carolina. When I visited and saw the beautiful campus, it was where I wanted to go. So after several years of working and going to school at night, I was able to attend.

"I want to thank East Carolina for preparing me for my life's passion."

1976

Vera W. Braswell '76 '78, a financial professional with New York Life Insurance Co., Greenville, earned the retirement income certified professional designation from The American College, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

1975

Brent Funderburk's '75 '78 watercolor painting, "Flying World," is among 150 works

and one of only 36 U.S. artist-produced works selected by exhibit jurors from Australia, China, France and the United Kingdom for inclusion in an exhibit dedicated to water-based painting media touring six Chinese museums. He is the fine-arts thesis coordinator at the College of Architecture, Art and Design at Mississippi State University, Starkville, Miss. **Dan Kenney** '75 '77, former ECU assistant basketball coach (1975-77) and UNC Pembroke athletics director (1998-2012), was inducted into the inaugural class for the newly created Peach Belt Conference Hall of Fame, Augusta, Ga. In 2012, he retired from college athletics and became chief of staff at UNC Pembroke. **E. Paul Schiffel III** was named to the Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2016. As a swimming coach in schools and swim clubs, he has provided opportunities for thousands of young people to learn to swim. In 1989, he established and continues to coach and operate the Catawba Valley Aquatic Club. He was a varsity swimmer at ECU.

MAKE A NOTE OF YOUR NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: **Class Notes Editor, Howard House, Mail Stop 107, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353.** Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can email your news to

ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu. While *East* happily prints wedding announcements, it is our policy not to print engagement announcements. Also, when listing fellow alumni in your news, please include their class year.

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© Jenny Crofton Photography

Alumnus devotes decades to fire, police service

You never know when a moment from your past will drop into your present. You just hope it has a good outcome.

That's what happened a few years ago to Richard Huneycutt '64. Here's how he told it last year to the *Hampton Roads* (Virginia) *Business Journal*:

"I used to teach health and physical education. For older kids, we practiced (CPR) on one of the dummies. But I also taught it to sixth-grade kids with the group watching me.

"One time, when I volunteered for the fire department, we got a call about an 18-month-old who had fallen in a lake. When we got there, there were no signs of life, but a young girl was working on her giving her cardiopulmonary resuscitation. We took over, then the baby started to gasp for air.

"Later, I went to visit her in the hospital. She was fine, sitting up. The little girl who was doing CPR had learned it in my class. She was able to keep air going and the blood circulating.

"What she did saved the baby's life."

That's just one of many experiences that stand out for Huneycutt, who worked as a P.E. teacher after graduating with a physical education degree from East Carolina but began volunteering with his local fire department in 1957 and as an auxiliary police officer in 1966.

For those decades of service, the city of Portsmouth, Virginia, honored him last year as it "first citizen," an award going back 82 years that recognized Huneycutt for his police and fire service as well as his volunteer work with the Portsmouth Seawall Festival and helping to create the Come Home to Cradock Festival.

Honeycutt is assigned to elementary schools as a school resource officer with the auxiliary police force.

"Now I go to every (elementary) school to be there for the students and for the principals," Huneycutt told the newspaper. "I take care of unruly students, sometimes taking them home and contacting the parents. But most of the time, I try to calm them down, maybe do a little walking around with them,

and we do a lot of talking."

In 1976, he did the first mounted police patrol in the city, using his own horse and trailer. For 41 years, he's volunteered to work on Christmas Day.

"That is the only way many police officers can be with their family, because they try to let as many people as possible to be off that day," he said.

As a student at Cradock High School, he began volunteering with the fire department. "There were times when I would be at school, hear the siren and go out for the firetruck to pick me up. After fighting the fire, I would go back to class," he said.

Among today's youth, he said he sees the effects of poor parenting and poor discipline among students.

"It is the lack of leadership in the home that kids are missing," he said. "Parents need to strive to be involved in their kids' lives.

"And don't believe they don't have homework. I also think it is never too young to get kids into an activity."

—Doug Boyd

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IN MEMORIAM

1930s



William Leonidas “Bill” Nisbet ’35 of Wilmington died April 10 at 101. He owned Nisbet’s Ladies Shop and Country Vogue. From 1965 to 1978, he was a member of the Redevelopment Commission of the city of Wilmington that planned and developed much of the downtown riverfront as it is today. On his 101st birthday, the Wilmington Rotary Club recognized him as a Paul Harris Fellow and an honorary member. He played on the first football team at ECTC.

1940s



Alma Whitley Adcock ’48 of Wilmington died April 2. She taught music in Farmville, N.C., and Wichita, Kan., schools before moving to Wilmington where she taught elementary school music for 20 years until retiring in 1988.



Joyce Louise Dunham Akins ’43 of Atlanta died May 1 at 93. She graduated valedictorian, summa cum laude, from ECTC in 1943, was an unprecedented president of junior and senior classes and was named an all-time Top 100 ECTC student when only 1 in 25 women attended college. She taught English, French and Spanish in Wilmington before moving to Children’s Village in New York to teach under-privileged children. She later moved to teach at Savannah High. **Doris Lamm Baxley** ’43 of Rockingham died May 4 at 93. She taught at Grainger High School in Kinston and Rockingham High School in

Rockingham, and she retired from Richmond Community College. **Helen Jones Sumner** ’47, formerly of Rocky Mount, died April 18. She was a home economics extension agent, a 4-H leader, a substitute school teacher and a private tutor.

1950s



Judith Stallings Alford ’53 of Louisburg died April 27. She taught at Smithfield Elementary, Bunn Elementary and Wendell Elementary schools. **Willa Rae Harper Bullock** ’54 ’57 of Farmville died May 13. In 1994 she retired after teaching second grade at Sam D. Bundy Elementary School for 33 years. **Glenda Harris Coker** ’59 of Henrico died April 28. She taught in the Northampton County School System until retirement.



Alice Cornelia Squires Johnson ’51 of Atkinson died May 16. She worked in the histology department at James Walker Hospital and New Hanover Regional Medical Center, where she was head of the histology department for many years.



Emmett Coleman “EC” Merricks Jr. ’58 of Charlotte died April 2. A U.S. Marine veteran of 20 years with two tours in Vietnam, he retired as a commercial airline pilot with Sunbird Airlines and director of operations for CCAir. **Louie Lenward Tyndall** ’56 of Ayden died April 25. A U.S. Army veteran, he taught in public schools and then worked for 30 years as a manufacturing supervisor with Dupont in Kinston until retiring in 1991.



Norwood P. Whitehurst ’56 of Greenville died May 5. A U.S. Army Korean War veteran, he retired in 1999 from his accounting firm. **William Steele Winesett** ’54 of Rowland died May 4. A WWII U.S. Marine Corp veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, he worked with Weyerhaeuser Forestry Department and later General Motors Insurance, from which he retired after 33 years.

1960s



Elizabeth Smith Borum ’61 of Farmville died May 4. She taught in Hopewell, Va., and Prince George County, Va., school systems. Later she was a civilian employee of the U.S. Army at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and ended her career as a GS15 from the Program Executive Office, Enterprise Information Systems. **Gerald Wingfield “Jerry” Gilliam** ’68 of Forest, Va., died May 2. A U.S. Navy veteran, he retired after 34 years in management from Babcock and Wilcock. After retirement he was a part-time cost analyst at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center. **Jeanne G. Gray** ’64 of La Grange died April 10. She taught more than 30 years in Wayne County Public Schools, primarily at Goldsboro High School. **Harry Patteson Ashley Knight** ’67 of North Chesterfield, Va., died April 11. A U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran, he was a psychologist in public schools until retiring in 2005. **Nancy Lucas Loughlin** ’65 of Wilmington died April 7. She taught math and science at Williston Middle School until her retirement. **Sandra Willoughby Stanley** ’63 ’67 of Wilmington died April 16. She taught music at Sunset Park Middle School for several years and began a 30-

year career as a private piano teacher. She was also a published composer with numerous songs published by Tennessee Music & Printing Company in annual church convention songbooks, the most recent being in 2013. **Jane Eva Sapp Van De Car** ’66 of Wilmington died May 12. A captain in the U.S. Air Force, she was a nurse on Cam Rahn Base in Khanh Hoa, Vietnam, during the Vietnam War from 1969-1970. She later served in various nursing capacities for Veterans Affairs.

1970s

Barry Hobbs ’70 of Charlotte died April 19. He retired from a 40-year career in real estate sales. **Barbara L. Fox** ’74 of Bridgewater, Va., died April 20. She was a master seamstress, artist and painter of watercolor. **Howard Cole Jones III** ’76 of Beaufort died April 24. He taught at Beaufort Middle School, West Carteret High School and Carteret Community College. **Elsie Dallas Griggs Hollowell Pugh** ’70 ’74 of Raleigh died May 6. She taught elementary school in Greenville, Virginia Beach, Pasquotank County and Camden County, was principal of Grandy Primary School and an administrator in the Camden County School System. She was an elementary school principal in Salem, Conn., and was appointed superintendent of schools in the Salem School System, the first woman to hold that post. **Carlton “Wayne” Vandiford** ’71 of Fayetteville died April 28. He was a retired banker.

1980s

Douglas Glenn Williams ’89 of Benson died April 20. He was a computer programmer specializing in UNIX.

1990s

Bruce E. Buscaglia ’90 of Midlothian, Va., died May 10. He worked at Dupont for almost 20 years. **John Edwin Weaver** ’90 of Wilmington died April 12. He had a career in which he completed professional interviews with authors and provided book reviews for many accomplished authors.

2000s

Delores “Dee” Brown ’04 of Atlanta, Ga., died April 14. She was a solution center consultant II at Automatic Data Processing, Alpharetta, Ga., for eight years. **Dorothy “Dee” Jameson Sanders** ’07 of New Bern died May 13. She taught first grade.



Shane Evan Tomlinson ’03 of Orlando, Fla., died June 12 in the Orlando mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub. He was manager and lead vocalist of Frequency Band of Orlando, a member of Joyful Choir of Orlando and former member of the Multi-Cultural Student Union of Cabarrus County and ECU Gospel Choir.

2010s

Sebastin L. May ’12 of Chesterfield, Va., died May 2. He was a U.S. Navy veteran.

FACULTY



Ralph Hardee Rives of Enfield died May 20. He was an ECU alumnus and spent more than 30 years as an English professor at ECU. The Ralph Hardee Rives Chair in Southern Literature was endowed in his honor. The Ralph Hardee Rives Collection at Joyner Library includes materials he compiled relating primarily to the Hardee-Rives and related families of North Carolina and the United Kingdom, the history of eastern North Carolina (especially Halifax County and the town of Enfield), the United Methodist Church in eastern North Carolina, and state, local and national politics.



Richard G. “Gay” Israel of Fort Collins, Colo., died April 16. He taught at ECU from 1981 to 1996, founded ECU’s Human Performance Lab and served as founder and director of the Cardiovascular

Disease Risk Factor Identification/Reduction Program. In 2008, he was recognized as a “Centennial Leader” at ECU. He was department head of health and exercise science at Colorado State University for 18 years.

Bob L. Myers of Winston-Salem died April 6. He taught in ECU’s business school from 1960 to 1965.

Dale Rice of Lawrenceville, Ga., died May 14. He taught science education at ECU from 1977 to 1979.

Bryson Douglas Trexler Jr. of Cary died April 29. He taught earth science at ECU from 1977-1978.

STAFF

John “Johnny” Willis Burrus of Hookerton died May 9. He formerly worked in law enforcement at ECU. **Ann Mollic Heumann** of Greenville died May 18 at 91. From 1964 to 1986, she was an administrative secretary to four different department chairs in ECU’s Department of Foreign Languages and Literature. **Almire Major Smith** of Greenville died April 22 at 94. A WWII U.S. Army veteran, he retired from ECU with more than 30 years as housekeeping supervisor.

FRIENDS

Jessie Lord Parkerson of Wilmington died April 5. She was a pastor’s wife and Sunday School teacher for more than 50 years. Memorial gifts may be given to The Women’s Roundtable at ECU Honors College Endowed Scholarship Fund. Checks may be made to ECU Foundation Inc. with EC3057 in the memo or online at Women’s Roundtable at ecu.edu/give. Please send checks c/o Stephanie Bunn to 2200 S. Charles Blvd, Greenville, NC 27858 and state in memory of Jessie Parkerson.

Correction



A photograph of Norwood Whitehurst, incorrectly identified as **Henry N. Whitener** ’56 (left) in the Spring issue of *East*, was due to an error in the 1956 *Buccaneer*.



Robert B. Morgan ’47, a small-town lawyer who rose to the U.S. Senate, died July 16 at his home in Buies Creek. He was 90.

He was a longtime figure in state politics and a staunch supporter of his alma mater, serving as chair of the alumni association board, as trustee chairman for nine terms in the 1960s. He helped lead the fight with Chancellor Leo Jenkins to establish a medical school at ECU. “The achievements usually credited to Leo Jenkins, then president of East Carolina, would never have been possible without his ally in the N.C. State Senate, Sen. Robert Morgan,” said John Tucker, a professor of history at ECU and university historian.

Morgan grew up in Lillington and in 1942 followed a sister to East Carolina Teachers College, as it was called then. He was treasurer of his freshman class, but left school in 1944 to join the Navy. He then returned and graduated in 1947. In 2007, Morgan spoke to a reporter about his days on campus. “There were a thousand girls, and there weren’t but 50 boys. ‘Course the boys were off to war, you know,” Morgan said. “When we’d walk down the campus, the girls would whistle at us.”

After graduating from East Carolina, he went to law school at Wake Forest. He began his political career while still a student, becoming clerk of court in Harnett County. In 1955, after a second stint in the Navy, he was elected to the state Senate and rose to its highest office, president pro tem. Tucker credits Morgan, along with another senator, the elder Walter B. Jones of Farmville, and state Rep. W.A. “Red” Forbes of Winterville with winning legislative approval of a one-year medical school program for East Carolina.

“He did this despite substantial opposition from the N.C. Board of Higher Education, then the governing body for higher education in North Carolina,” Tucker said. “Jenkins was behind this, but Morgan made it happen where it had to: in the state Legislature.”

In 1966, Morgan introduced the bill to make East Carolina a university and prevailed. Then-Gov. Dan Moore opposed this bill and the earlier medical school bill, but without the veto power, he couldn’t stop them. “He was someone who really knew how to get things done in the Legislature,” said Tom Eamon, associate professor of political science at ECU and author of *The Making of a Southern Democracy: North Carolina Politics from Kerr Scott to Pat McCrory*.

After serving as state attorney general, Morgan ran in 1974 for the U.S. Senate seat previously held by Sen. Sam Ervin. He won and served on the Armed Services Committee and others, worked to pass federal anti-trust legislation and became an ally of President Jimmy Carter.

But that and his support for a treaty turning control of the Panama Canal over to Panama were used against him in his 1980 re-election campaign. In a race decided by about 10,000 votes out of nearly 1.8 million cast, Morgan lost to Republican John East, a political science professor from, ironically, ECU.

At ECU, the race, Eamon said, “put some people on the spot.” Morgan was one of the driving forces in the development of ECU, Eamon said, while East was a popular faculty member who had been active in Republican circles.

“It was hard-fought,” Eamon said, and a bit of a surprising outcome.

But that wasn’t the end of Morgan’s involvement in state politics or working to advance causes he believed in. In 1985, he was tapped to lead the State Bureau of Investigation. He returned to law practice in 1991, continuing to practice into his 80s. He also founded and led the North Carolina Center for Voter Education, a Raleigh-based nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that seeks to increase civic engagement in North Carolina.

ECU recognized Morgan by conferring upon him an honorary degree; presenting him with the Jarvis Medal, the university’s highest service award; naming him Outstanding Alumnus; and presenting him with its Alumni Service Award.

He is survived by his wife, Katie, three children and several grandchildren. A daughter, Alice Jean Morgan, died before him.

—Doug Boyd



Light bill raises students' ire

Ficklen Stadium welcomed fans in 1975 to a facility with a powerful new lighting system—and left students with a bill of about \$475,000 to pay for it.

The new lights, which replaced six sets of pole-mounted lights inside the stadium, and a variety of intramural sports additions raised student fees from \$152 to \$157 a quarter—or \$15 a year. Most of that went to the intramural programs, but \$6 was used to pay debt service on the the new lights—a decision that left students in the dark.

"The students as a whole had no input into this decision which arbitrarily requires them to pay additional monies to the university," SGA President Bob Lucas (who later chaired the ECU Board of Trustees) wrote in the

Fountainhead, the campus newspaper. "I can assure you that if \$6.00 was taken from all the staff and faculty salaries, to pay for lights, they would have a tendency to get upset."

The action led to a campus referendum where 97 percent of 6,400 ballots cast favored students being consulted before further fee increases. Eighty-four percent came out against the fee increase to pay for the lights.

In an interview in the 1975 *Buccaneer*, the campus yearbook, Chancellor Leo Jenkins said he understood student opposition to fee increases in a bad economic time. But at the time trustees voted to move ahead with the project, the SGA president, an ex-officio member of the board, didn't express any objection, he said.

Rob Luisana, who was SGA president in 1972 when the project was approved, told the *Fountainhead* his vote was only for "some vague lights project" with no mention of the cost or that student fees would rise as a result.

Jenkins promised that any future work at the stadium, such as enclosing one end to form a horseshoe with an eye toward admission into the Atlantic Coast Conference, would not be paid for with student fees. He also addressed the issue of the energy the lights would consume at a time when students were being asked to cut back their electricity use or face a separate increase in dorm rates.

"The vacant homes of people attending the football games would cancel the use of energy by the new lights," Jenkins said.

WEEKDAYS

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East Carolina University senior jumper Avion Jones not only won gold in the high jump at the American Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships in May, but also lofted himself into the realm of the elite athletes in the world. His mark of 7 feet 7 inches was the second-highest of any athlete on the planet this year and set the AAC meet record and program outdoor record.

Photo courtesy American Athletic Conference